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104514

GRANT VIEWS STEPHEN RENO

On reading the news



Hardly a day has passed these last few months that, on opening the newspaper or our Internet source, the tragedy of another mass slaughter, random shooting or strategic attack didn't present itself. For reasons understandable and many not, we are killing one another with a frequency and a calculation that gives us all pause as we venture out of the relative security of our homes each day.

"Only thing we have to fear is fear itself," so warned FDR in 1932. But as fear may now temper our actions, we hope for a peace that may come from mutual understanding. That's hard to achieve in the knife-edge rhetoric of presidential campaigns, inflammatory websites, and confrontational encounters.

Whether religious or not, a prayer or a wish for peace is more of what we have in common than a hatred of others. Those refugees seeking asylum have no different a wish than ours to have a safe environment here in which to live. That we wish to worship as we want is no different from others who hold the same hope. It is understanding and tolerance that we must work toward.

Pope Francis remarked recently: "Pray for me, but if you do not pray, at least wish me well." Perhaps in that same spirit we might embrace the following prayer of Rabbi Harold Kushner:

"Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect. Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let us burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly. So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender, or skin color. Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness. So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrow of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors. Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven."

Wishful thinking, naïve hope in a dangerous world? Perhaps. But it must have its place in whatever plan we craft.

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ON THE COVER

GIFT GUIDE Find gifts
for everyone on your list
with Hippo's annual gift
guide:

For people who want to
give back: p. 12
For artsy types: p. 22
For gardeners: p. 30
For techies: p. 34
For foodies: p. 40
For book lovers: p. 54
For music fans: p. 58



ALSO ON THE COVER,

Get a taste of an Italian tradition with the Feast of the 7
Fishes, p. 44. See Krampus at Fright Christmas, p. 28,
or at the movies, p. 56. Hop in the car and head out on a
cookie tour, p. 48.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS & NOTES

4 Q&A with Lindsey Graham; NH uses Waze; Primary Up-
date; PLUS News in Brief.

8 Q&A

9 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

10 SPORTS

THIS WEEK 20

THE ARTS:

22 ART

Gifts for art lovers.

26 CLASSICAL

Ronan Tynan.

26 THEATER

Listings for events around town.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

29 KIDDIE POOL

Family fun events this weekend.

30 GARDENING GUY

Henry Homeyer offers gift advice.

31 TREASURE HUNT

There's gold in your attic.

34 TECHIE

Gifts for the geeks in your life.

36 CAR TALK

Automotive advice.

OTHER LISTINGS: Crafts p. 28; Dance p. 29; Health &
Wellness p. 31; Misc. p. 31; Nature & Gardening p. 35; Over
50 p. 35; Sports & Rec p. 35; Volunteer p. 35

CAREERS:

37 ON THE JOB

What it's like to be a...

FOOD:

40 GIFTS FOR FOODIES Feast of the Seven Fishes; Cookie
tours; In the Kitchen; Weekly Dish; Wine; From the Pantry.

POP CULTURE:

52 REVIEWS CDs, gift ideas for all kinds of book lovers, and
more. Amy Diaz did not take the kids to visit *Krampus*.

NITE:

58 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE

Musical gift ideas; Sarah Blacker; Nightlife, music &
comedy listings and more.

61 ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORD

A puzzle for the music-lover.

62 MUSIC THIS WEEK

Live music at your favorite bars and restaurants.

ODDS & ENDS:

68 CROSSWORD

69 SIGNS OF LIFE

69 SUDOKU

70 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

70 THIS MODERN WORLD

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School district war

After a 9-month back-and-forth between the Hooksett School Board and the Manchester School Board over a 10-year contract to send Hooksett's kids to Manchester's high schools, Manchester is accusing Hooksett of not negotiating in good faith. The Union Leader reported Manchester committee vice chairman Sarah Ambrogi wrote a letter to the Hooksett School Board expressing disappointment and claiming Hooksett never budged from its prior position while Manchester had. Hooksett officials responded with a letter of their own, claiming that Hooksett had moved the most from its initial position (which offered to pay cost per pupil and no minimum student requirement) and that the board had made "significant concessions" during the negotiation process after Manchester's offer (which included about 12 percent more than the cost per pupil and a minimum student requirement of 40 students per year). Hooksett returned with an offer of 10 percent more than the cost per pupil and a minimum student requirement similar to Hooksett's existing contract with Pinkerton Academy in Derry. Hooksett entered a 10-year agreement to send students to Pinkerton last March, which includes a minimum student requirement based on the average number of students who elect to attend after the first three years. The town had sent its students to Manchester schools for more than a century and Hooksett board members wish to keep the city as one of Hooksett's two "anchor" school districts.

Debtors prison bill

A proposed change to state law would put an end to a practice by some judges that places individuals in jail when they fail to pay court-ordered fines. The Union Leader reported the revisions were drafted by two circuit court judges and the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire and recently presented to the New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules. The study group was formed in the wake of an ACLU report that said the practice amounted to a modern-day debtors prison. The change calls for a hearing process to determine whether individuals are willfully refusing to pay fines or are unable to.

Water park

After a Dec. 2 auction of Liquid Planet, the Candia water park previously owned by Kevin Dumont, the park has a new owner. The Union Leader reported the owners of Whale's Tail Water Park in Lincoln won the auction with a bid of \$950,000. Dumont had fallen behind on mortgage payments and was closed by regulators due to high bacteria levels. When the auction was scheduled, he chained himself to the top of a water slide for 17 days, but he unchained himself when he began to show signs of pneumonia and failed to attract investors. The new owners say the park will open in the spring and will likely expand over time.

Needle exchange

A New Hampshire drug treatment organization called Recover Together wants to offer a free needle exchange where addicts can deposit used needles in exchange for clean ones. But, as NHPR reported, such a program could require a change in state law. Those who turn in needles with even a small amount of illegal substances in them could be subject to arrest based on current law. Recover Together hopes to launch its program in 2016 and would be the first of its kind in the state. Proponents of needle exchanges argue they reduce the risk of disease transmission from sharing needles.

Prescribing bill

One of the first bills to come out of the Joint Task Force for the Response to the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic in New Hampshire will likely be one of the last to be signed into law. The Union Leader reported the proposed legislation would require all state regulatory boards that govern opioid prescribers to update their rules. Republican Sen. Majority Leader Jeb Bradley, who is chair of the task force and co-sponsor of the bill, says it will likely require a lot of negotiations with the various stakeholders and therefore needs more time than other bills set aside for fast-track passage at the start of the 2016 session.

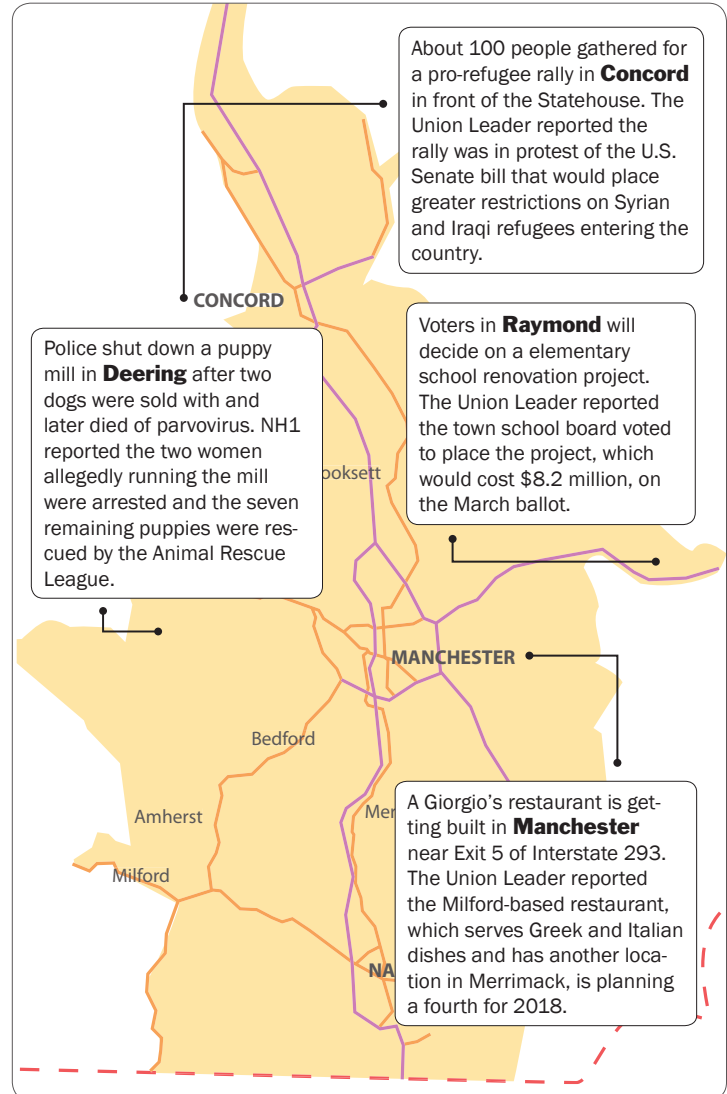
Kinder Morgan

Nearly the entire New Hampshire congressional delegation,

save for Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, has come out against the Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline proposed by Kinder Morgan. In email statements, Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte, Rep. Frank Guinta and Democratic Rep. Annie Kuster all spoke critically of the project. Kuster represents the 2nd Congressional District, which contains 15 of the 17 towns along the proposed pipeline route. She said she would be filing her official opposition to the project with federal regulators. Both Guinta and Ayotte say they have unanswered questions and concerns shared by constituents, the Union Leader reported. Ayotte will also send a letter to regulators voicing her opposition. Gov. Maggie Hassan, a Democrat running against Ayotte in the upcoming senate race, also expressed frustrations that her questions have gone unanswered. Sen. Shaheen's office told the UL she is not taking any position on the project yet.

Full-day kindergarten

As Concord debates instituting full-day kindergarten, a local mother circulated an online survey on the matter. The Concord Monitor reported the survey found that nearly 92 percent of the 203 respondents were in favor of full-day kindergarten while only 5 percent were against it. Of those who responded, 49 percent have children entering kindergarten and 12 percent don't have children. And 57 percent said they would be willing to pay more in property taxes to fund the program.



Fentanyl bill

While legislation to battle the state's opioid epidemic covers a wide range of tactics from expanding treatment to better regulating prescription practices, one perceived low-hanging fruit is a bill that would make the penalty for distributing the deadly drug fentanyl at least as strict as that for selling heroin. The Union Leader reported a subcommittee

of the joint task force convened to create emergency drug legislation earmarked the fentanyl bill for fast track. This means it could become law as soon as mid-January. Also on the fast track, with strong bipartisan support, are bills that would expand the use of the state's prescription drug monitoring program and update insurance coverage guidelines for addiction treatment.

BEST WEEK

HISTORIC HOTEL BUY

The Omni Mount Washington Hotel, Omni Bretton Arms Inn, the Lodge at Bretton Woods and the Bretton Woods Ski Area and Nordic Center were acquired by Omni Hotels & Resorts, the Union Leader reported. Omni had already been in a long-term agreement with previous owners CNL Lifestyle Properties since 2009. The terms of the purchase of the historic hotel (where, in 1944, world leaders established the first international financial order) were not made public. Omni Resorts owns 60 hotels and employs 18,000 associates. The purchase brings an additional 1,000 employees into the fold. Company officials say they will soon be announcing plans for future development.

WORST WEEK

UNITIL CUSTOMERS, AND A HAWK

A power outage that affected 13,300 customers in Concord, Bow, Boscawen, Canterbury and other nearby communities was caused by a hawk landing on a key transmission line. NHPR reported the bird landed on a line close to the one of the main power lines, which meant it affected a large number of people. Unitil says guards are placed on lines to prevent animal interference, but they don't always work. The outage lasted for more than an hour on Dec. 5 and the animal did not survive the shock.

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By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

Republican Lindsey Graham

Lindsey Graham is currently serving his third consecutive term as U.S. Senator from South Carolina. He's a close political ally of John McCain and New Hampshire's Kelly Ayotte. He spoke to the Hippo by phone on Oct. 16.



By last count, you and Chris Christie are neck and neck for the most visits to New Hampshire this season, according to WMUR's online tracker. You're both at 42 days.

Yeah, 42 days. You got the right number. [At last count, Graham beat Christie for the most visits, 58 to 51.]

Are you going for the record?

Haha, no. He's a great guy. I think we both enjoy campaigning up here. The way forward for me is a lot of on-the-ground time in New Hampshire. I talk about securing our nation, being ready to be commander in chief on day one, the troubled times in which we live, our failing foreign policy, and bipartisanship — trying to get the country out of debt by working with Democrats across the aisle. The way forward for me is just a lot of town hall house parties. I think the message resonates. Senator McCain, who won New Hampshire twice, has been with me twice. We spent three days together. Really good reception. So, for me to do well in New Hampshire, the path of the way forward is house by house, hamlet by hamlet.

What are the issues you've heard New Hampshire residents bring up the most?

A lot of interest in foreign policy, what's happening in Syria, what's Putin up to. People worry that radical Islam is going to hit us again. They're upset that we're being sort of walked over as a nation by Russia, China and Iran. A lot of interest in the Mideast and debt. When I mention \$18 trillion in debt and climbing — this is a pretty responsible state here, [and] people expect bipartisanship when it comes to the big things. I talk about saving Social Security. When I was 22, my parents died within 15 months of each other. We were wiped out financially, me and my sister. She was 13 years old. [We] moved in with an aunt and uncle who never made more than \$25,000 in their life. I understand the value of a Social Security check. We received survivor benefits from Social Security. My commitment is to save Social Security and shore up Medicare and do it in a bipartisan fashion. But people are worried about our debt; they're worried about our national security.

So let's talk about foreign policy and national security. You are one of the few, perhaps the first candidate, who has called for invading Syria. Why isn't material support to regional allies enough defeat to ISIS?

The regional capabilities are short of what I think we need to ensure success. There is no substitute for certain things we do in the military. We have an intelligence capability unmatched. We have sophisticated weaponry that can really decide the battle. Ninety percent of the force I'm talking about comes from the region. They have large armies, but we have capabilities that would be essential, I think, to ensuring victory over ISIL. President Obama's got the right goal, which is to drain and destroy ISIL. You just can't do it from the air. We're never going to defeat these guys from the air. ... I would go in on the ground with the region. I would train free Syrian forces so they could fight too. We'd have a regional approach ... and just go in on the ground to destroy the caliphate and pull it up by its roots, hit them where they reside.

Why do you think you're not polling well nationally or even in your home state of South Carolina?

The frustration with Washington, frustration with the political system. [Donald] Trump's played off of it. He's seized that frustration. Ben Carson's a good decent man, very honest. People see him as an alternative to the current system. These polls really are capturing name ID and celebrity more than anything else right now. The people leading in 2008 and '12 at this time, none of them made it. So, I think this is going to pass. I'm confident I'll win South Carolina if I do well in New Hampshire. But I have to do well here. And my pathway forward is to say that experience matters when it comes to being commander in chief. Don't replace one novice with another. I think the closer we get to voting in New Hampshire, particularly, experience and judgment and background really matters. That's something that I have to offer in abundance — 35 trips to Iraq and Afghanistan, 30 years in the Air Force. So I'm not worried about polls in October. I see a pathway forward for Lindsey Graham in New Hampshire and that is a receptive audience to a message about how to defend this nation

and get us out of debt. And if I do well here, I'll wipe them out in South Carolina, because I'm their hometown boy. But I've got to do well in New Hampshire.

Your favorite topics are obviously foreign policy and, as it concerns the economy and entitlements, you talk a lot about debt, but what other plans do you have for helping the economy?

Energy independence. There is a real opportunity to become energy independent, sooner rather than later. Finding oil and gas, exploring for it in an environmentally sound way, exporting natural gas that we own in abundance could really undercut Putin's monopoly in Eastern Europe, which could change foreign policy there and here. But the idea of an energy renaissance, a lower carbon economy over time, building more nuclear power plants, wind, solar, all of the above. Finding oil and gas that we own, building the pipeline from Canada, creating an energy economy, redesigning our homes and office buildings to be more energy-efficient, modern

technology on the roads to improve vehicles, things that we can sell to other people. Solar, wind, biomass, all of the above. ... One of the purposes of my presidency would be to become energy independent and to create a clean, healthy environment in the process.

Do you have a song you listen to or a mantra you tell yourself to get in the zone before a major speech or debate?

You know, it's funny. I'm a Motown guy. So, I like Motown music. It uplifts you but it's mellow. Jackie Wilson's "Higher and Higher" is a good, upbeat song but you know, "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King kind of gets you into the right mode sometimes.

What is something odd about running for president that some people don't realize?

The diversity of the regions of the state [of New Hampshire]. I mean, the North Country is like going to a tourist mecca. People have really thick accents, for me. It took me about two days where I could get to understand people and they could get to understand me. — Ryan Lessard

This interview was edited and condensed.

Bernie at Keene State

More than 1,000 people turned out to see Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders speak at a town-hall-style event at Keene State College on Dec. 5. The Union Leader reported the facility filled its 800-person capacity and the event was live-streamed to 160 universities across the nation. Sanders received the largest applause when he brought up his plan to make college education free by taxing Wall Street.

Newspaper war

In a strange turn, the Union Leader has found itself in a war of words against the New Jersey Star-Ledger over the Manchester paper's earlier endorsement of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. The Boston Globe reported the Star-Ledger responded to the UL endorsement with a column that accuses the paper of not knowing the governor's full record. It referred to the bridgegate scandal, Christie's handling of Hurricane Sandy and the state's credit downgrades. In response, UL editorial page editor Grant Bosse appeared on MSNBC comparing the Star-Ledger to a slighted ex-girlfriend. The Star-Ledger published another column in response to the ex-girlfriend trope, saying it was sexist, and reiterated its earlier argument.

Christie jumps in polls

It appears the UL endorsement has helped Christie. A recent poll by Public Policy Polling shows the New Jersey governor in fourth place in New Hampshire after climbing to 9 percent from 3 percent in mid-October. The same poll also found Christie had the highest net favorability rating of all the Republican candidates with 39 points. Billionaire Donald Trump continues to lead with 27 points, but Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has surged to second place. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio fell from second place to third.

WMUR pension dispute

Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton are weighing in on a pension dispute at New Hampshire's largest local TV station, WMUR. The Concord Monitor reported the dispute between station employees and parent company Hearst Corp. began after the production staff unionized with IBEW 1228 in February. Hearst officials threatened to take away their pensions in response. Sanders and Clinton are calling for the two parties to resolve the matter ahead of the upcoming Dec. 19 debate in Manchester.

Better Waze to drive

NH joins neighboring states in sharing traffic app data

By Ryan Lessard
news@hippopress.com

Imagine you drive by a car on the highway with smoke coming out of its engine, stranded in the right lane. Emergency crews haven't arrived yet, but it's clearly going to impact traffic. There's an app for that.

The app is called Waze, and while it won't fix the car or clear the traffic, it will allow drivers (or, in the case of states with hands-free laws like New Hampshire, passengers) to alert other users of the app to the traffic-creating event. Drivers who receive the alert can then take the necessary detours — Waze provides alternate routes and drive time estimates.

Now, thanks to a new and free data-sharing agreement between New Hampshire and Waze, state traffic managers are getting the heads-up about these incidents as well.

Denise Markow, the transportation systems manager at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, says that means they can find out about things like traffic accidents sooner, redirect traffic sooner and maybe even send first responders faster.

"Many times, citizens go by something and, in reporting it, we will get notifications and alerting of an incident a whole lot quicker than [the current process]," Markow said.

She says without Waze, folks call 911, which contacts New Hampshire State Police. A state trooper is then dispatched to the scene, and when he gets there he calls it into the Traffic Management Center.

"We're trying to reduce that gap between that event happening and the information we get out to the public," Markow said.

NHDOT will start using the Waze data when it launches the new tri-state data link between New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, in about 6 to 8 weeks. In the meantime, app users will start to see traffic event information provided by NHDOT.

"The long-term goal is to have a traffic management system that will push data back and forth through a data hub, and we all can share that data," Markow said.

App users will see when there's a traffic problem and non-app users will see instruc-



tions on the big dynamic message boards above the freeways, telling them to try a different route.

Eventually, Markow says, the tri-state coalition hopes to incorporate Massachusetts as well.

"They are currently working on the design of their traffic management system right now, so they're probably about two years behind us," Markow said.

Besides accidents, Markow says users of the app — known as "Wazers" — can report road hazards like potholes, map inaccuracies, traffic jams and even police speed traps.

Laura Finkelstein, one of Waze's spokespersons, said in an email that Concord has more than 50,000 active "Wazers" per month, but she was unable to provide a statewide number.

"I've seen it where there's been 14,000 Wazers in a certain radius location and then there's been 500. So, the range is varied," Markow said.

The data-sharing agreement is part of Waze's Connected Citizens Program.

Besides the manually created incident reports that drivers and passengers create in the app, Waze says it's also providing "passive GPS reports" using Google Maps, though Markow says they won't need it. NHDOT is already in an agreement to get similar data from TomTom and is paying for that data layer, because it works with a more compatible mapping system than the Waze data. So if a roadway is starting to grind to a halt, red flags will go off at Markow's control center, she said. 🚗

“We're trying to reduce that gap between that event happening and the information we get out to the public.”

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Bells will be ringing

Homeless man works for charity

This time of year, you can see Andrew "Andy" Eaton ringing the Salvation Army bell in front of grocery stores and Walmarts in the southern New Hampshire area. Born and raised in New Hampshire, Eaton is now homeless and living outdoors. But he doesn't let that stop him from showing up for his shifts to raise money for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Christmas Campaign, which helps provide food, toys and clothing to people in need during the holiday season. He spoke recently to the Hippo in front of the Market Basket on Elm Street in Manchester.

Q: *How long have you been doing this?*
 Four years. This is my fourth year doing it.

Do you go to different locations?
 They move us around. Like, I've been here for almost a week now. Well, a little over a week.

You focus on Manchester mainly?
 No, I've done Bedford. The Walmart over in Bedford, the [New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlets] in Bedford, the Macy's in Manchester. That was a cold day — upper Macy's. The wind cut straight through, but it was worth it. We just keep moving, that's all.

It gets pretty cold some nights.
 Yeah, it does, but, you know, we do it for the children, so it's worth it.

What's the coldest night you've ever done this on?
 Oh geez ... when the wind picked up it was 9 degrees [and one day was] 0 degrees.

How did you first get involved?
 Actually, I was working through Labor Ready. That's how I got started.

What's Labor Ready?
 Labor Ready is a temporary labor [staffing company]. ... I was working through Labor Ready and that was my first year doing it.

Do they pay you?
 Some people get paid, some people don't. I'm doing this for the children. ... I'm getting paid for it, but I'm doing it mostly for the children. Because I'm

Five favorites

Favorite Book: I don't have much time to read.
Favorite Movie: *The Hobbit*
Favorite Musician: Brooks & Dunn
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Thing about NH: I would say the mountains.



Andrew Eaton. Photo by Ryan Lessard.

homeless ... the pay helps, so I'm working to get into a place that's small. I work through Complete Labor now, over on Bridge Street. When the bell ringing comes up, every year I do it. It's like a tradition now.

Are a lot of the other guys doing this also homeless?

No, there are very few that are homeless that are doing this. Most of them have houses and apartments. I just happen to be homeless right now. But I still get up and I come in and I do it.

Are you staying at a shelter nearby?

No, I'm not staying at a shelter. I'm living outdoors. But I still do it. [Pauses to speak to a passerby.] You drive careful going home, Merry Christmas! I'm sorry, I'm in bell-ringing mode. You know, we get into it and it's great. There's another gentleman down at the other door. I enjoy it because it means I get to meet new people.

How did you end up living outside?
 You know, it was just one thing after another. [To passerby] Drive careful going home! Merry Christmas!
 — Ryan Lessard

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Charity theft

Two Concord men were arrested in connection with the theft of nearly \$5,000 in gift cards and unused power tools from a charity that collects holiday gifts for disadvantaged children across the state. The Concord Monitor reported the men allegedly broke into a van parked in a state garage in late November where the items were being stored by Operation Santa Claus, the annual charity drive by the state's largest union. The theft was not discovered until Nov. 30.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *Authorities believe the men already spent some of the gift card money at Walmart for cigarettes and other items. One of the two men told police they were homeless and looking for a place to sleep when they found the gifts.*

Trees purged due to insects

Manchester Water Works is planning to remove 400 acres of red pine trees, some nearly a century old, over the next five years to stem the tide of an invasive insect. The Union Leader reported the red pine scale insect has been responsible for devastating the region's forests over the past 50 years and was recently detected in New Hampshire. All the red pine in Massachusetts has been removed due to the infestation there. The trees near Massabesic Lake were planted to help filter the water supply, but once they become infected with the insect, their timber becomes unsalvageable. By proactively harvesting the trees, the department can sell the timber for about \$800 per acre of red pine.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: *Red pine scale insect was first seen in Connecticut in 1946 and is believed to have been introduced to the country via exotic pines planted at the New York World's Fair in 1939.*

First female combat engineer

Derry native and Vermont Army National Guard soldier Spc. Skylar Anderson was awarded the 12B Military Occupation Specialty code of combat engineer, the first woman in the country to hold this position, according to a Union Leader article. The college junior made headlines in 2013 when the then-senior at Pinkerton Academy was told by school officials she couldn't wear a sash signifying her service in the National Guard during graduation ceremonies; officials eventually gave in. Her taking this position is possible due to the U.S. military's end to a ban on women serving in combat, with Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordering all combat roles be open to women last week.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *Anderson originally enlisted in the New Hampshire National Guard but transferred to the Vermont National Guard in 2014. She's studying animal science and equine studies and is in the pre-veterinary program at the University of Vermont, according to the story.*

Slick roads, lots of accidents

The time to check weather forecasts and traffic reports before leaving the house has returned. Twitter accounts for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for Route 101, Interstate 89 and I-93 have exploded with crash alerts and road closures recently due to icy conditions. On Dec. 6, for example, there were three vehicle crashes in the Monadnock region, according to the Union Leader.

QOL Score: -2

Comment: *Some driving tips courtesy of the DMV: If roads are icy, slow down; get snow tires if you haven't already; and don't swerve for animals except moose, as they can cause serious injuries.*

QOL score: 86

Net change: -3

QOL this week: 83

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Was the Price right when Sox got their ace?



Dave Dombrowski struck again last week when, after giving away a boatload of prospects for closer **Craig Kimbrel** a while back, he gave lefty **David Price** more money than a pitcher has ever been given. It signaled a major change in Red Sox operating philosophy by blowing to smithereens **John Henry's** famous edict of no long-term contracts to pitchers over 30, a team policy that played a big role in **Jon Lester's** departure last year.

It's being treated as a no-brainer by almost everyone outside of **Vladimir Putin**. On paper it certainly looks that way, but when you put \$217 million on the line nothing is a no-brainer. I mean two weeks ago who didn't think an easy Patriots win over Philly was a no-brainer? This is seven years, in which between injury, attitude and the possibility of unforeseen happenings, a lot can go wrong, as it did for Colorado when they gave **Mike Hampton** an eight-year deal once upon a time.

It's Henry's money so it doesn't matter, but if it were mine, this is how I'd scrutinize the notion of bringing Price aboard.

Is He Good? He's won a Cy Young, finished second twice, had seasons with 20, 19 and 18 (last year) wins with a second-best winning percentage (65.0 percent) among active pitchers. So his body of work justifies his being among baseball's top paid pitchers.

Is He Worth It? That's a different question. It's a mix of on-field performance, consistency, impact on the team (think **Josh Beckett** in chicken and beer) and impact on the business side. I disagree with many who say after three last-place finishes in four years they'd have a hard time selling tickets, because they managed the impossible by providing great optimism in the last two months even as they finished in last place. Having said that, putting Price at the head of the rotation gives things a major jolt.

Is it a No-Brainer? Let's review the history of all the "no brainers" over the years. There have been home runs like **Manny Ramirez** and **Johnny Damon**, but recently it's mostly been one disaster after another when they didn't get commensurate production from their big-money free agents. The list includes **Keith Foulke**, **John Lackey** (one good year), **Edgar Renteria**, **Julio Lugo**, **JD Drew**, **Dice K** and the poster boy, **Carl Crawford**. Need I remind you the dual disaster of **Hanley Ramirez** and **Panda** cost a combined \$175 million. Want to go back to **Mike Torrez** coming over from the Yanks in 1978?

What Could Go Wrong? Ever heard of **Albert Haynesworth**? Got the big money, then got fat and unhappy. Judging character matters here. Price also comes from where the oh so sensitive Crawford did, where the few fans who turned up in Tampa were more interested in what the early bird special would be at Del Boca Vista Phase III than in whether the D-Rays lived up to expectations. Need I say it ain't the same here? The other is, \$30 million per drains the payroll like it did for Texas after signing **A-Rod** to the richest contract ever. That left little money to fill important other roster spots, which both killed the team and led the owner to file Chapter 11. Recently there have been a lot of long-term deals for **A-Rod**, **Mark Teixeira**, **CC Sabathia**, **Josh Hamilton** and **Albert Pujols** that soured early to choke the Yanks and Angels in the short and especially long term.

Short-Term Value: See the "Is He Good?" part. He fills the top-of-the-rotation need perfectly and at 30 it's reasonable to expect he'll perform at current levels for four seasons, with a fifth a real possibility.

Long-Term Story: Expect to get much less the last two or three years than in the first four, which can be handled if the young pitchers deliver over time.

Did They Overpay? Since the Indians gave **Wayne Garland** \$2.3 million over

10 in the first class of 1977, people have been saying they overpaid. They also said it when **Greg Maddux** got \$68 million from Atlanta, the D-Backs gave **Randy Johnson** \$91 million and **Max Scherzer** got \$210 million last year. The fact is salaries just keep going up and 10 guys will be making more than Price by the time this deal is done. It's not the annual rate that kills you. It's the length of the deal that makes you hold your breath.

The Money: Will the \$30 million drag on the payroll hurt them? Time will tell, but with no official salary cap and when you consider if they still had Lester, John Lackey and **Andrew Miller** they would cost \$50 million in 2016 and for Price, **Joe Kelly** and **Craig Kimbrel** \$46 million — probably not.

The Ronald Reagan Question: Are they better off with Price heading the rotation over what they had last year? Daa. He also provides two other benefits. **Eduardo Rodriquez** stays farther down the rotation keeping the pressure off as he develops. Plus the added depth to the rotation let them deal **Wade Miley** for hard throwing **Carson Smith** — whose numbers (70 innings, 49 hits and 92 K's) I love — adding needed depth to the bullpen.

Bottom Line: I'm in complete agreement with Henry on long-term deals to over-30 pitchers, because in most cases you pay someone for what they did for some other team and not what they'll do for you, especially at the back end. But in this case, with a farm system filled with prospects to provide cost-effective home-grown talent, they have a void at the top of the rotation and Price fills that void. So as a one-time thing, I'm OK with filling it this way. And it's a win if he delivers five big years with two On-The-Back-Nine less productive years.

Now if they unload the farm system to bring in **Chris Sales** from Chicago, we're talking a serious playoff threat.

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SNHU women 8-0

The Big Story: By winning their first eight games, the SNHU women are off to the best start in school history. Technically the 8-0 record matches what the 1988-89 Penwomen did, but this group wins the tiebreaker because Win No. 8 came on Saturday against powerful Bentley, which has been among the best programs nationally for 30 years. That makes the 72-67 win on the home court of the Falcons (currently ranked 22nd nationally) a landmark win, which was keyed by **Erin Doherty's** team-high 15 points and a 13-point, 8-rebound submission from **Kylie Lorenzen**.

Sports 101: On Dec. 10, 1922, **Pete Henry** made longest known drop-kicked field goal in NFL history, 45 yards. Who is the last player to score on a drop kick in NFL play?

Hot Ticket: If you get the paper early it's heading up North River Road to join in the fun with the SNHU women on Wednesday vs. Merrimack, and if not, on Saturday vs. Stonehill.

Honors: After a season when he scored a whopping 30 touchdowns, Goffstown running back **Colin Bourque** was named Gatorade Player of the Year last week.

The Numbers

3 – times in four weeks
Tom Brady has thrown an interception with the Patriots inside their own five and goal with the latest coming in Sunday's stunning loss to Philly, which **Malcolm Jenkins** took back 99 yards for a TD.
 22 – consecutive wins to start the season and 27 games overall to leave Golden State

just 6 wins shy of the all-time NBA record 33 straight won by the L.A. Lakers in 1971-72.
 23 – team-leading points scored by **Mike McCahey** as 20th-ranked Saint Anselm suffered its first loss on Wednesday 86-78 to Bentley.
 30 – most points in the nation scored by UNH center **Andrew Poturalski** who has 14 goals and 16 assists

He's the first player from G-Town ever to win the award. Given that he was the leader of the undefeated and untied state champions as he ran for 1,554 yards and had nearly 2,000 yards in total offense, it is a well-deserved honor.

Home Ice Advantage: The world famous Verizon Wireless Arena continues to be what home ice is supposed to be — an advantage. That was evident over the weekend when the Manchester Monarchs took two of three from the Reading Royals where Sunday's 4-2 behind a three-point night from **Matt Leitner** pushed the M's to 14-8 overall on the year.

Sports 101 Answer: Doug Flutie was the last to score on a drop kick, which came in his final NFL game and the Patriots' season final in 2005.

On This Date – Dec. 10: 1935 – The financially troubled Philadelphia A's sell future Hall of Famers **Jimmie Foxx** to Boston for \$150,000 and **Al Simmons** to Chicago for \$75,000. **2005** – **Reggie Bush** wins the Heisman Trophy he has to give back three years later. **2012** – **Johnny Manziel** becomes the first freshman to win the Heisman, no doubt setting off a giant party at Texas A&M.

during the U's disappointing 5-6-4 start.

50 – career high number of saves made by UNH goaltender **Danny Tirone** in Friday's 2-2 tie with archrival Maine.

53 – percentage shot from the field by SNHU when they blew out Assumption 91-56 behind 20-point nights from both **Chris Walters** and **Rodney Sanders**. 🐼

Sports Glossary

Vladimir Putin: No relation to ex-Expos slugger **Vladimir Guerrero**. Instead the swing-for-the-fences ex-KGB operative and current Russian president (seemingly for life) causing headaches for **President Obama** and other Western leaders.

John Lester: Sainted ex-Red Sox lefty made out as a cross between **Pedro Martinez** and **Mother Theresa** by those blaming the 2015 last-place finish on his departure. How he'd have changed things when he was under .500 and the ERA jumped by nearly a run in a league with no DH while winning fewer games than **Wade Miley** on a 92-win team remains a mystery.

Mike Torrez: Got \$1.8 million in 1978 and delivered 16 wins twice but slipped to 9-14 in 1980 and was 60-54 overall for Boston and will always be remembered for surrendering that homer to **Bucky F. Dent**.

Manny Ramirez: For \$147 million the Sox got on average 36 homers, 116 RBI and a .312 average, a batting title, three 40-homer and 125-plus-RBI seasons, the first two world titles since 1918 and all the hilarious "Manny being Manny" moments.

Keith Foulke: Good first year, but he was surly after that with ERAs of 5.91 and 4.35.

JD Drew: For an upper-echelon \$15 million per paycheck he never drove in more than 68 runs in five seasons and sat out any time he had even a sniffle.

The Ronald Reagan Question: It came in the 1980 presidential debate when he asked, "Are you better off today than you were four years ago?" Since it came at a time of near economic chaos it basically buried **Jimmy Carter** right there.

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Gift Guide 2015

Presents that inspire and delight

There are all kinds of fabulous gift ideas in this issue for everyone on your list, from art and music lovers to book fans and foodies. But perhaps the best gift you can give this season is to help out the kids in your community who might need a little more than a toy from Santa this year. The Hippo talked to 25 local charities and nonprofit organizations that directly help children to find out what they need most, whether it's monetary donations, goods or volunteers.

By
Allie Ginwala,
Ryan Lessard,
Kelly Sennott
and Angie Sykeny

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire

55 Bradley St., Concord, 224-1061,
centralnhclubs.org

What it's all about: The Boys & Girls Club of Central New Hampshire is made up of eight different clubs — three in Concord and one each in Allenstown, Hopkinton, Warner, Franklin and the Lakes Region, which together serve roughly 600 kids in grades K to 12. The organization provides a safe place for young people, with mentors and programs covering everything from academics and leadership development to physical fitness and healthy habits. The goal: to help kids do better in school, get along with peers and become more caring, confident and productive citizens. In addition to providing arts, sports, games, cooking and academic activities, members get healthy snacks upon arrival, and at the Bradley Street location, 80 to 100 kids get served dinner every night Monday through Friday.

What monetary donations are used for: Development Director Jon Clay said monetary donations can go wherever the donor wants — to specific areas or programs — but if it's not specified, they'll go to scholarships, which more than 80 percent of current members utilize.

They could also use: Volunteers who can help with homework, lend an extra hand in the gym or share talents for cooking, art, music, etc. (Volunteers ages 17 or older must undergo an extensive background check.) Email Bob Carter at carter@nhclubkids.org for more information.

Warm clothes (new or in top condition), homework materials (pens, pencils, paper) and art supplies are all in demand during the winter, but you can also call and ask what's needed.

Other ways to help: The organization is holding its biggest fundraiser of the year, the Boys & Girls Club T.V. Auction, on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Last year's event raised almost \$110,000. If you live in the area, you can find items for sale (ranging from \$15 gift certificates to an all-expenses paid trip to San Antonio) on Channel 6 or streamed on the website.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Derry

40 E. Derry Road, Derry, 434-6695,
derrybgclub.org

What it's all about: This club serves about 1,500 members, grades 1 to 12, from dozens of Greater Derry communities (Londonderry, Chester, Sandown, Auburn, Manchester, Windham, etc.), with daily attendance rounding 300. There are educational, athletic (basketball, volleyball, wrestling, baseball), technological and nutritional programs here as well; in the spring, the kids grow a big garden, and they harvest and cook the food in the fall. This facility houses two computer labs, with 60 desktops for the kids to do homework on. Most of the programs are run by volunteers, as is the 20-member board of directors, Executive Director Art McLean said via phone.

What monetary donations are used for: General operations to run the 30,000-square-

foot building and employ the eight-member (plus four part-time member) staff.

They could also use: Equipment, like new computers for the technology lab, or for the game room (foosball, ping pong, board games), and also art supplies; McLean said construction paper especially is used all year long. The best bet is to call the club to inquire about what you can bring.

Other ways to help: You could become a volunteer or sponsor or attend the annual auction in April.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua

1 Positive Place, Nashua, 883-0523, bgcn.com

What it's all about: Members come from the greater Nashua area — mostly from Nashua or Hudson, but some kids travel from as far as Lowell or Dracut, Mass. Director of Development Bridget Cooley said via phone that each year the organization serves about 3,200 members, ages 5 to 18, from 20 towns. About 500 kids come daily. Every day after school, kids have the opportunity to get homework help and participate in athletic (basketball, kickball, etc.) and art activities (crafts, theater, dance). Cooley said they also encourage kids to become involved with community service and develop public speaking, job skills and college preparation. This is one of the two Boys & Girls Club organizations that has an on-site pool.

"We partner with lots of community agencies and work with local colleges," Cooley said.

What monetary donations are used for: Scholarships and general operations — electricity, bus transportation, etc. — unless specified.

They could also use: "Anything arts-related," Cooley said. "We love having games and toys for the kids, plus athletic equipment." You can find specific items under the "How to Help" website tab. (Right now, some items include arts and crafts supplies, beads, glue, sewing needles, pencils, notebooks, dry erase boards, technology items, aquatic items for the on-site pool and recreation equipment. There are many more on the wish list.)

Other ways to help: Cooley said the group is looking for volunteers who can help with after-school programs (dance, art, sports, academics, etc.).

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem

3 Geremonty Drive, Salem, 898-7709,
salembgc.org

What it's all about: The club serves about 1,800 kids from surrounding towns within 30 miles of Salem, like Methuen, Windham, Derry and many other communities. It is one of two in New Hampshire with an indoor pool and full aquatics program. Kids can also participate in homework "power hour," basketball, volleyball, swimming, wrestling, floor hockey and other athletic activities. Ages range from 3 to 18 — Director of Development Denise Dolloff said this club also has a state-licensed preschool and kindergarten program, plus a teen center.

What monetary donations are used for: The “It Just Takes One” campaign, which aims to raise \$100,000 for the club. The money goes to general expenses and programming.

They could also use: Photography equipment for a new teen photography program, plus arts-and-crafts materials, basketballs, food gift cards for the cooking program, Lego kits and school supplies. Beads are also always a hit with girls, Dolloff said.

Other ways to help: Volunteers do everything from helping to organize special events to homework help.

Boys & Girls Club of Manchester

555 Union St., Manchester, 625-5031, mbgcnh.org

What it's all about: It's the oldest Boys & Girls Club in the state at about 108 years old, and it comprises three locations (one on Union Street, two on school sites). More than 600 kids are served a day, almost 2,000 a year. Most come from Manchester and the surrounding area, Tracey Adams, director of marketing and community relations, said via phone. Within the club is a dedicated teen center, plus academic programs with individualized attention. Mentors and staff check report cards and identify classes that kids are struggling with, and they offer homework help and tutoring if necessary.

There are also service clubs and programs that focus on character, sports, health, leadership development and the arts, from painting and drama to glee clubs to African drumming. (Step dance in particular has become very popular among kids, Adams said.)

What monetary donations are used for: They can go wherever the donor wants — scholarships or programs — but if not specified, they go toward general operations. Right now, the club's also in the midst of a campaign to replace the gym floor by next year, which is original to the 58-year-old clubhouse.

“It's time to be replaced — it can no longer be sanded and refinished,” Adams said. “We're raising \$150,000 to both replace it and do cosmetic enhancements to the gym.”

They could also use: Arts, crafts and school supplies (notebooks, binders, rulers, folders, pencils), which help provide incentives to do homework.

Other ways to help: Around this time of year, many companies and individuals adopt families for the holidays, which involves buying presents for Christmas. The gifts come anonymously and can serve as Santa gifts for the kids. Hats and mittens are also always needed, as kids lose them all the time. You can also volunteer, which requires a two-hour-a-week minimum for six weeks.

CASA of New Hampshire

138 Coolidge Ave., Manchester, 626-4600, casanh.org

What it's all about: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) recruits, trains and supervises volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the New Hampshire court system. These volunteers (currently, the count is at 422) are the “eyes and ears” for judges on these cases, meeting with the children regularly and reporting to the court what they think is in the kids' best interests (though judges make the final decision).

What monetary donations are used for: Expanding programs, plus recruiting and training additional advocates through the state.

They could also use: Director of Communication Carolyn Cote said via phone the organization is constantly recruiting and training volunteers. The training process is intensive, requiring about 40 hours, and Cote said she hopes to bring in at least 100 to 150 more, which would enable CASA to serve all of New Hampshire's children. “Right now, we serve 80 to 85 percent of the kids that need us,” Cote said. For more tangible items, Cote said the organization could also use bulk coffee, K-Cup coffee, tea bags, paper coffee cups, forever stamps, Kleenex tissues, pens, hand sanitizing wipes, white card stock and ¾-inch Scotch tape refills.

Other ways to help: You could attend CASA's fundraising event in February or volunteer by joining a CASA committee, helping organize/sponsor events, or helping with research and development and serving as an office receptionist. You could also buy a box of 20 greeting cards for \$20 with kid-designed fronts, proceeds of which go to the organization. They must be ordered by Dec. 20 for delivery before Christmas.



Girls Inc. works to inspire girls to be strong, smart and bold. Courtesy photo.



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Girls Inc. of New Hampshire
Headquarters, 27 Burke St., Nashua, 882-6256,
girlsincnewhampshire.org

What it's all about: To inspire girls ages 5 to 18 to be strong, smart and bold through various programs like after-school classes and activities, a dinner club that serves free meals Monday through Friday to girls and families in need, summer camps and early learning programming. Programs focus on giving girls experience in non-traditional activities and career choices along with sports, fitness, health and prevention programs. "The main thing we do is help girls focus on their education, get homework done, go to college or get a good job," said CEO Cathy Duffy Cullity. "A girl who comes to us sees us as her extended family and we help provide those things that they need and basically teach them how to get [things] themselves." In addition to the Nashua, Manchester and Concord locations, Girls Inc. has a presence in more than 50 schools across the state and holds programs about bullying, Internet safety and young women's leadership.

What monetary donations are used for: Full and partial scholarships to help girls' families that can't cover the \$2,500 cost for the entire school year, the dinner club program and Christmas gifts for the girls and families. They're currently in the middle of a capital campaign for the renovation of the Burke Street building in Nashua and are looking for donations.

They could also use: New board games and art supplies, books and sports equipment like soccer balls, basketballs and volleyballs. Items to support the science, health or fitness programs are always needed as well.

Other ways to help: They always welcome volunteers — especially to work one-on-one with the girls in the homework room — and are specifically looking for a marketing intern and someone to help in the office.

Southern New Hampshire Toys for Tots

64 Harvey Road, Londonderry,
londonderry-nh.toysfortots.org

What it's all about: Southern New Hampshire Toys for Tots is part of a nationwide nonprofit organization that collects and donates toys for kids up to 13 years old. "Whatever donations, money that we take from that area we put back into that area," said Sgt. Kevin Healy, coordinator for Southern New Hampshire Toys for Tots. "I collect in southern New Hampshire and I return to families in need in southern New Hampshire." Along with corporate sponsors Toy R Us and Walgreens, Healy sees donations from businesses, families and individuals. There are five pods in the state to drop off donations (see the website for hours).

What monetary donations are used for: The goal is that 97 cents of every dollar goes toward toy donations. Healy recently visited Toyland in Milford and purchased about \$5,000 worth of toys. Monetary donations can be made after making a purchase at Toys R Us or by making a check out to Toys for Tots Foundation and mailing it to the Harvey Street address.

They could also use: Kids on the older side of the spectrum are sometimes overlooked, so

Healy said donations of books, jewelry making kits, sports items and education tools for preteen boys and girls are especially needed.

Other ways to help: Interested volunteers can visit the website and call Healy to give their time at the warehouse counting, sorting and preparing toys for donation.

Make-A-Wish New Hampshire

814 Elm St., Ste. 300, Manchester 623-9474,
nh.wish.org

What it's all about: Make-A-Wish America has 64 chapters across the country that share the mission of granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish New Hampshire is dedicated solely to granting the wishes of children ages 2 and a half through 18 right here in the state, according to Holly Blanchard, director of youth programs and marketing/communications. Children can be referred by a doctor, nurse, parent or social worker to start the qualification process. A common misconception is that wishes are only granted to those who are terminally ill, when in fact wishes apply to those with a life-threatening illness. "Many of our kids are going on to live fulfilling lives," Blanchard said. Last fiscal year they granted 84 wishes, and they hope to grant 90 this coming year.

What monetary donations are used for: Ninety cents of every dollar donated goes toward granting wishes, the average cost of which is \$10,000. Recently granted wishes include learning how to be a puppeteer, having a playset built in the backyard and meeting the players at a Patriots game.

They could also use: Wish ambassadors to learn about and share Make-A-Wish New Hampshire's mission. They host wish tours and invite people to hear wish stories so they can share the message and help people understand the referral process. They could also use ice-breaker gifts for the wish granters to bring when they first meet the kids and families.

Other ways to help: For kids with travel wishes, Make-A-Wish New Hampshire likes to have volunteers at the airport in Manchester cheering for the family as they drive up with signs that say "happy wish day."

Marguerite's Place

87 Palm St., Nashua, 598-1582,
margueritesplace.org

What it's all about: Offering transitional housing for homeless women with children for the past 21 years, Marguerite's Place has 10 independent living apartments to house the families while the women participate in a program to help them become and remain self-sufficient. With an average program stay of 18 months, there is an onsite child care center offering affordable and high-quality care for the kids (and kids from the general public) while the moms go back to school or look for employment, according to director of development and public relations Melissa Ballard Sullivan.

What monetary donations are used for: Operating expenses that help the program run, as well as scholarships to help fill that gap for the families working toward self-sufficiency.

They could also use: Diapers to support their free diapers program for the child care center plus pillows, cookware, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, Lysol spray, toothpaste and laundry soap. Check out the wish list on their website for a full and up-to-date list.

Other ways to help: Right now they're looking for development professionals in management, marketing and finance to volunteer to help plan, execute and man special events in order to bring the organization to the next level. Those with the desire and ability are also welcome to volunteer for regularly occurring needs like answering phones and prepping apartments.

UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center

153 Paige Hill Road, Goffstown, 497-2343, upreachtrc.org

What it's all about: About 80 adults and children with disabilities participate in therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving lessons each week. The six- to eight-week programs are held six times a year, according to development director Veronica Lester. "Therapeutic riding is beneficial in many ways physically," Lester said. "[It helps with] body awareness, spatial orientation, balance, posture, strength of muscles and [is] emotionally beneficial as well." She explained that therapeutic driving involves a horse hitched to a two-wheel cart for the participant and instructor.

What monetary donations are used for: General donations are put toward the most



Courtesy of the Boys and Girls Club of Manchester.

current need, which is often offsetting costs to help keep lessons affordable for families. Donations also help feed and house their 13 horses and provide needed maintenance and repairs for the facility.

They could also use: Office supplies, printer ink cartridges, paper goods, cleaning products, work gloves, corn husk brooms and grounds and maintenance equipment. The website has a full list of items they need.

Other ways to help: Volunteers to serve as leaders and sidewalkers during lessons (must be 14 or older) that can commit to a minimum of one hour per week. The center holds volunteer training every six to eight weeks. They also

need barn help, builders and handy people. No horse experience is needed for any volunteer. Those interested should contact the volunteer coordinator at liz@upreachtrc.org.

The Salvation Army

New Hampshire Corps Community Centers in Concord (58 Clinton St.), Manchester (121 Cedar St.), Nashua (1 Montgomery Ave.), Laconia (177 Union Ave.), Derry (18 Folsom Road) and Rochester (10 Olde Farm Lane)

What it's all about: Many of the state's 10 Salvation Army locations have programs geared toward youth, like the after-school

programs and summer day camps in Nashua. Patricia James, public relations manager for the Northern New England Division, said centers also provide educational programs involving computer labs and sports like volleyball and soccer. The Manchester Corps has programs for kids ages 5 to 17, along with the Kids' Cafe that serves meals four nights a week to children and Friday and Saturday nights to teens. "Every location offers basic assistance like general and holiday assistance and youth programs, food pantries and Sunday worship," James said. "But then it varies from corps to corps. They try to tailor [to] the need [in] the community."

What monetary donations are used for: About 85 percent of every dollar goes toward programming. Go to onlineredkettle.org to designate your funds to your local Salvation Army.

They could also use: Non-perishable food donations for each location's food pantry.

Other ways to help: They can always use volunteers, especially during the holidays to help organize food baskets, distribute toys or ring a bell for one of the red kettles. Contact your local Salvation Army.

American Red Cross of New Hampshire

2 Maitland St., Concord, 225-6697, redcross.org

What it's all about: A humanitarian organization that provides disaster relief, emergency assistance and preparedness education. Red Cross of New Hampshire and Vermont spokesperson Lloyd Ziel says one of their more successful children's programs is called the Pil-

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pillowcase Project, where young kids are asked to think about how they would react to a disaster like a home fire and what items they would throw into a pillowcase to take with them during an evacuation. The Home Fire Campaign seeks to reduce fire deaths and injuries with free smoke alarm installations. Ziel says there's a fire in New Hampshire or Vermont every 20 hours, on average.

What monetary donations are used for: Money donations will go toward the Pillowcase Project or to comfort kits for those who suffer a home fire. The Holiday Gift Catalog on the Red Cross website allows donors to choose to fund anything from comfort kits to messages to service members abroad.

They could also use: The Red Cross can always use donations of blood and platelets.

Other ways to help: The organization is always looking to recruit new volunteers, and they provide training wherever necessary, such as the training for disaster relief volunteers. A fast-paced "disaster boot camp" is scheduled for Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 in Nashua. The registration deadline is Dec. 31.

Anne-Marie House

180 Lowell Road, Hudson, 883-7338, annemariehouse.org

What it's all about: Anne-Marie House is a 26-bedroom shelter for working-class families with kids who have fallen on hard times due to job losses or health issues.

What monetary donations are used for: Donations can be made online or mailed and go

toward general operating expenses of the shelter along with capital campaigns to help fund heating and building renovations. Executive Director Pam Small says she buys 16 gallons of milk each week for the 25 families currently residing in the shelter, and food costs between \$400 and \$600 weekly. "Think of us as one big family who needs all the things that any family would need," Small said. The heating oil costs about \$30,000 a year, according to Small, and the building is in need of upgrades. There's a strong emphasis on children at the home. Only families with kids qualify, and 70 percent of the residents are children under 18.

They could also use: The house will also accept donations in the form of food and toiletries. They are always in need of cleaning supplies and paper goods like paper towels and toilet paper. They also accept things like toothbrushes and deodorant.

Other ways to help: Volunteers are always in demand, for help with fundraising, managing the pantry, cooking meals or helping with kids. They are also on the lookout for people with special skills like maintenance and education.

Easter Seals New Hampshire

555 Auburn St., Manchester, 623-8863, easterseals.com/nh

What it's all about: The organization has long been in the business of providing services for people and families with disabilities, education and advocacy. Some of their programs have a special emphasis on children, such as the two child development centers in Manches-

ter with about 275 kids, according to Executive Director Pamela Dube. And kids aged 11 to 21 with disabilities or special needs can attend a summer camp at Gilmanton Iron Works called Camp Sno Mo. Easter Seals also runs a special education school called the Robert E. Jolicoeur School in Manchester and they serve military families and veterans with donations.

What monetary donations are used for: Donations can be made online, and the website will allow donors to select which program they wish their money to help fund.

They could also use: They will accept donations in the form of food, warm clothing, presents and gift cards for gas and groceries.

Other ways to help: Easter Seals is always looking for new volunteers. Dube says volunteers are especially needed to help run the roughly 50 events they organize each year in the state, including one coming up on Jan. 28 called the Winter Wine Spectacular. It is taking place at the Radisson in Manchester and will feature about 1,500 different types of wine.

Emily's Place/YWCA

72 Concord St., Manchester, 625-5785 (office), 668-2299 (crisis line), ywcanh.org

What it's all about: The overarching mission of the YWCA is to eliminate racism and empower women. The Emily's Place women's shelter is a hidden emergency shelter that serves women in the Manchester area escaping abusive situations with their children.

What monetary donations are used for: Manchester YWCA interim president Jessica

Sugrue says their crisis services help both men and women who are victims of domestic violence. Their 24-hour crisis line (see above) is available to anyone suffering abuse in the area, and the Emily's Place shelter, with 18 beds, is the largest shelter of its kind. YWCA also provides community education on issues like domestic violence. If donating online, you can call to specify to which program you would like the money directed. According to Sugrue, the crisis program is the greatest need. Grants cover basic operating cost and staffing but little else.

They could also use: YWCA is also accepting items for its shelter such as toiletries, feminine products, diapers, wipes, grocery and gas gift cards and toys for all ages.

"Generally, these women are fleeing from their abusers so they are leaving everything behind," Sugrue said.


Other ways to help: They need volunteers for several areas of the YWCA such as office assistants and crisis service advocates (the YWCA would provide training) and they need help with fundraising.

Families in Transition

122 Market St., Manchester, 641-9441, fitnh.org


What it's all about: FIT provides housing for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It was founded in 1991 in response to the growing number of homeless people in Manchester and statewide.

What monetary donations are used for: Executive Director Maureen Beauregard says money donations will go toward FIT's housing




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mission. Its newly built shelter, with room for 11 families, is built with child safety measures. The first floor will be a resource center and the second floor will be for housing. The organization works to help families transition into permanent housing. "That's the best gift you can give a kid, is permanence," Beauregard said.

The ribbon-cutting of the new shelter will take place Dec. 22 at 4:30 p.m. after a candle-light vigil walk. If donors wish to direct their money to specific areas, they can write it in the comments field on the website.

They could also use: Clothes can be donated to one of FIT's two thrift stores in Manchester and Concord. The clothes are then sold and the proceeds help to fund the housing operation.

Other ways to help: Beauregard says the new shelter needs a "ton" of new volunteers to help with all kinds of things including serving breakfast and lunch. Food is being provided by New Horizons and New Horizons staff is helping to serve dinner. FIT could also use help with talent donations in areas like gardening and cleaning.

Friends Program

202 North State St., Concord, 228-1193, friendsprogram.org

What it's all about: The Friends Program has a youth mentoring program, a homeless shelter for families, a volunteer program for seniors and a program that pairs seniors with grade-school children in the classroom for mutual benefits.

What monetary donations are used for: Executive Director Jerry Madden says the greatest need is in the youth mentoring program since most of the grants the organization originally enjoyed have dried up. "Funding is getting tougher and tougher," Madden said.

The grassroots program is in its 41st year and pairs community members with kids age 6 to 17.

Its shelter, for families only, is the only one of its kind in Merrimack County. It serves up to eight families at any given time, with about 28 people on average. The Foster Grandparents program they sponsor puts seniors in elementary school classrooms to interact with and help children in exchange for a small stipend. Online donations can be directed to specific programs via a followup email.

Other ways to help: The Friends Program is always looking for volunteers in the mentor program and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, or RSVP. Through RSVP, seniors can work for Meals on Wheels or help drive patients to medical appointments.

Concord Family YMCA

15 N. State St., Concord, 228-9622, concordymca.org

What it's all about: According to marketing director Gina Brochu, Concord Family YMCA is the largest childcare provider in Merrimack County. They offer full-day childcare for ages 1 to kindergarten; a full-day kindergarten program; an after-morning-kindergarten program with a school pickup service; the KYDSTOP



Kids enjoy swimming. Courtesy of Concord YMCA.

after-school program (also offered at some area schools), which includes homework help, arts and crafts, swimming and gym time; youth sports programs; and the Fun & Fit program, which teaches kids how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They also offer kids' summer camps, as well as Leader in Training, a five-week program for teens to develop skills for leadership, first aid/CPR, pre-employment and more.

What monetary donations are used for: "It [provides] scholarships for families who need childcare and helps give memberships to anyone who wants to join the Y but has financial barriers," Brochu said.

They could also use: At Christmas time, the Concord Family YMCA has a tree in the lob-

by with a wishlist of children's gifts people can purchase for families in need. They also accept items to better their facility throughout the year as needed.

"For example, we just redid our babysitting room and the Girl Scouts donated toys for the kids to play with," Brochu said. "It's nice to change the toys up everyone once in a while."

Other ways to help: There are various volunteering opportunities for events and programs throughout the year. Fill out an application at the Welcome Center, and they will give you a call when an opportunity comes up.

YMCA of Downtown Manchester

30 Mechanic St., Manchester, 623-3558, graniteymca.org

What it's all about: The Granite YMCA has five branches: Greater Londonderry, Allard Center (Goffstown), Seacoast (Portsmouth), Strafford County (Rochester) and its main branch, Downtown Manchester. The Manchester facility offers a variety of programs for kids and families, such as full-day childcare for ages 8 months to kindergarten; kindergarten and preschool programs; classes for dance, sports, fitness and more; before- and after-school programs with homework support, sports and arts and crafts; summertime day and overnight camps; sports programs; a Teen Center; and a Kid Zone where kids can be supervised while their caretakers use the fitness equipment. The Granite YMCA also hosts events throughout the year designed specifically for families.

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What monetary donations are used for: Downtown Manchester branch manager Sabrina Smeltz said donations benefit the Reach Out for Youth and Families annual campaign, which provides scholarships for people who are in need of financial assistance to become Y members and utilize the Y programs. Last year, \$1,686,000 in scholarship funds was provided to more than 19,773 youth and families.

They could also use: At Christmas time, YMCA of Downtown Manchester has an Angel Tree in the lobby where people can donate unwrapped toys for families in need. Throughout the winter, the Y accepts mittens, scarves, hats, etc. for the Share the Warmth campaign.

Other ways to help: "When the need is there, we definitely look for people to help with their time," Smeltz said. "We need volunteers for our special events throughout the year, in our programs and in the community projects we get involved with."

Contact The Granite YMCA and inquire about volunteer opportunities and how to apply.

YMCA of Greater Nashua

24 Stadium Drive, Nashua, 882-2011, nmyymca.org

What it's all about: The YMCA of Greater Nashua has facilities in Nashua and Merrimack. At the Nashua facility, programs are offered for kids of all ages, including an Early Education Center and full-day childcare for 6-week- to



The NH Catholic Charities OURPLACE program offers support for young, first-time mothers. Courtesy photo.

6-year-olds; preschool and kindergarten; after-school childcare and educational programs for grades K through 6; a fitness program for kids ages 6 to 13 struggling with childhood obesity; youth sports leagues; classes for gymnastics, dance, arts and crafts, swimming and karate; teen leadership classes; day and overnight summer camps; and a babysitting service for parents using the fitness equipment.

What monetary donations are used for: Donations support their annual campaign, Y CARES, which provides scholarships for children and families to become Y members and participate in Y programs. "[With] Y CARES financial assistance, [we] stay true to our mission that everyone can enjoy YMCA programs

and services regardless of their ability to pay," Elizabeth Covino, director of community relations, said.

They could also use: Covino said children's books, arts and crafts supplies and other materials for the Y child care programs are "always appreciated."

Other ways to help: YMCA of Greater Nashua has a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year, such as tutoring and mentoring, assisting in child care programs, instructing sports teams and classes, being a referee for sports games, helping with summer camps and more. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and how to apply, call and ask for the volunteer coordinator.

New Hampshire Kids Count

2 Delta Drive, Concord, 225-2264, nhkidscount.org

What it's all about: "We're an independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization," said Amy Bourgault, interim director. "We fight for hunger solutions, dental access and other children's health and safety and economic issues." To serve New Hampshire children as effectively as possible, NH Kids Count performs the widest range of research on children in the state, examining issues like family and community, economic opportunity, health and wellness, safety and education. The results are compiled in the NH Kids Count Data Book, which is used by partnering businesses, community leaders and policy makers to develop a collaborative agenda each year.

What monetary donations are used for: According to Bourgault, donations benefit NH Kids Count's four active coalitions: New Hampshire Child Advocacy Network, a collaborative effort to create system-wide change by proposing new policies to the Legislature; NH Hunger Solutions, an effort to ensure every child receives three meals a day by partnering with schools and after-school programs to offer breakfast and an after-school meal; NH Dental Access Alliance, an effort to improve access for children to receive quality oral health care; and NH Juvenile Justice Coalition, an effort to improve the juvenile justice system by proposing legislative changes.

Other ways to help: Because NH Kids Count bases all of its initiatives on research,



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New Hampshire Catholic Charities

215 Myrtle St., Manchester, 669-3030, cc-nh.org

What it's all about: New Hampshire Catholic Charities has several programs to help children and families. OUR PLACE is a program that supports first-time, teenage or young-adult mothers from pregnancy to the third year of their child's life. "We give them mentorship and guidance, encourage them in [pursuing] education and jobs as well as teach them about child development," said Lisa Merrill-Burzak, vice president of development. "Programs like these reduce child abuse because parents understand what their kids are doing." They also offer family counselling, adoption services and St. Charles Children's Home in Rochester, which provides one-on-one behavioural treatment to help kids with challenges get integrated back into the school system.

What monetary donations are used for: Many donations are used in OUR PLACE to purchase educational workbooks and materials as well as gift cards to assist families with buying groceries. They are also used in the St. Charles Children's Home to provide food and basic living necessities for the children.

They could also use: Merrill-Burzak said they can always use diapers and children's

books up to a four-year-old level for OUR PLACE, as well as food donations, gas cards and gift cards for Walmart or Target and grocery stores. "Gift cards are wonderful because we know where [the money] is going but [the families] can still pick the food and necessities that [fit their] needs," she said.

Other ways to help: Volunteer opportunities are available, but they are constantly changing based on need. Contact them for information on the application process and areas where they could use help.

Spaulding Youth Center

72 Spaulding Road, Northfield, 286-8901, spauldingyouthcenter.org

What it's all about: "Spaulding Youth Center is an intensive treatment program for students with neurological, behavioral and personal challenges," said Jim Clements, CEO and president. "We take care of kids academically and residentially whose needs are not able to be met in the local school district." Spaulding is open to boys and girls ages 5 to 21 and is currently serving 88 students, 49 of whom live on campus. They offer art programs; specialized help with reading, language and speech; occupational and physical therapy; career exploration; family counselling; health and fitness programs; outdoor challenges; after-school recreational activities; a foster care program; in-home services and child health support for families.

What monetary donations are used for: Donations are used to purchase laptops for their

student laptop program, expand the outdoor ropes course and help with general operating costs.

They could also use: At Christmas time, they accept gifts for the students who have no home to go to for the holidays and have to stay on campus. People are also welcome to propose their own donation idea.

"Two recent examples are that we [were] provided [with] eight or 10 turkeys for students and families for Thanksgiving," Clements said. "The second one is, [there was] a thoughtful idea from a group of ladies who made quilts for our incoming students."

Other ways to help: Spaulding has a volunteer program for people to help with physical projects such as cleaning, painting or landscaping, or to work directly with students in recreational areas. Contact them for more information on how to apply for the program.

New Hampshire Children's Trust

The Concord Center, 10 Ferry St., Suite 315, Concord, 224-1279, nhchildrenstrust.org

What it's all about: New Hampshire Children's Trust is a child abuse prevention agency. Its main objectives are to provide training and resources for people who work directly with children and families; push for public policies that will help children and families; and bring businesses, community organizations, and the general public together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

What monetary donations are used for: "We use donations to help educate anyone who

works with children and families, so like training nurses, teachers and childcare workers," Keryn Bernard-Kriegl, executive director, said. "[If they are] better able to support the families and advocate for kids, whether it be in the doctor's office, school or town hall, [there is] less likelihood of abuse and neglect."

They could also use: Each year, New Hampshire Children's Trust partners with the CLICK for Babies campaign, which raises awareness of infant abuse by providing infants in hospitals with purple knitted or crocheted caps. Bernard-Kriegl said they are "already flooded with donations" right now, but will start collecting again next July.

Other ways to help: In April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, New Hampshire Children's Trust seeks volunteers to set up Pinwheels for Prevention gardens in their towns to raise awareness.

"There's a huge one in Swasey Park in Exeter, but we would love to have someone organization one in Manchester," Bernard-Kriegl said.

You can also show your support by wearing blue on Wear Blue Day in April (date TBA) and posting a picture on social media with #StandUpNH. Finally, you can volunteer to hang up educational posters in places families go, such as grocery stores, laundromats, churches and schools.

"[The posters] have things like tips for dealing with a crying infant, a checklist for strengthening families, how to report child abuse and neglect [and] how to say 'I love you,'" Bernard-Kriegl said. 🍓

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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER 10 - 16, 2015, AND BEYOND

Friday, Dec. 11

Catch *The Twelve Days of Christmas* at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. The show features more than 100 performers from across New Hampshire, including students from the Eastern Ballet Institute and the Concord Community Music School's Purple Finches Children's Chorus. There will be musicians, aerial dance artists and an 18-foot light-up pear tree with a dancing partridge in her nest. Tickets range from \$12.50 to \$16.50. Visit ccanh.com. Pictured, the Purple Finches. Courtesy photo.



Saturday, Dec. 12

Celebrate Christmas at Canterbury from 3 to 8 p.m., at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road). Experience a Shaker Christmas with crafts, gingerbread cookie-decorating, costumed characters, a toy train display, fiddle music and an old-fashioned 19th-century magic show. Then, enjoy hot apple cider and sing Christmas carols at the lighting of the Village Christmas tree. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6 to 17 and free for children under 5. Visit shakers.org.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Five historic Amherst houses will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Christmas in Amherst Village house tour, hosted by the Congregational Church of Amherst. There will be a guide at each stop, sharing historic background and other information about the homes. Tickets cost \$30 in advance or \$40 the day of the tour. Visit ccamherst.org/cav.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Don't miss the Boston Pops Holiday Concert at Verizon Wireless Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester) at 7:30 p.m. Capturing the magic of the Christmas season and the winter charms of New England, the Boston Pops will perform their signature "Sleigh Ride," as well as other holiday classics and new arrangements of seasonal favorites. Santa Claus will make a guest appearance during the finale. Tickets range from \$42 to \$77. Visit verizon-wirelessarena.com.

Thursday, Dec. 17

See the 1983 holiday favorite *A Christmas Story* (PG) on the big screen at 7 p.m., playing at all Chunky's Cinema Pub locations (151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham) as part of the Christmas Classics series. Chunky's is screening a classic holiday movie every Thursday until Christmas. Tickets cost \$3 and can be purchased online at chunkys.com/special-events.

Eat: Cookies

Visit over a dozen shops in Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, Rindge, Troy, Peterborough and Swanzey for the 11th annual Currier & Ives Cookie Tour Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Your ticket is the map for this self-guided tour. Make sure to bring a cookie tin to collect your goodies from each stop. Tickets cost \$12 and can be purchased at The Inn at East Hill Farm (Troy), The Little River Bed and Breakfast (Peterborough), The Monadnock Inn (Jaffrey), The Woodbound Inn (Rindge) and Swanzey Historical Society. Visit currierandivescookie tour.com.

Drink: Holiday wine

IncrediBREW's (112 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua) final wine event of the year, Holiday Wine Fest, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy holiday food, wine-tasting and wine-making, and take six bottles home. Wines include viognier, Granny Smith riesling, amarone, Italian pinot grigio, chianti, and super Tuscan. No wine-making experience necessary. Visit incredibrew.com to register.

Be Merry: By candlelight

The Gilford Village Candlelight Stroll is on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Take a walk among the hundreds of candles, or take an old-fashioned horse and wagon ride. There will be carolers meandering around, and many homes will offer tasty treats for children. Santa will be in the Village Field bandstand along with a bonfire for warming up and toasting marshmallows. Email katherine@gilfordlibrary.org for more information.

Looking for more stuff to do this week? Check out Hippo Scout, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and online at hipposcout.com.

Charles Dickens' **A Christmas CAROL**

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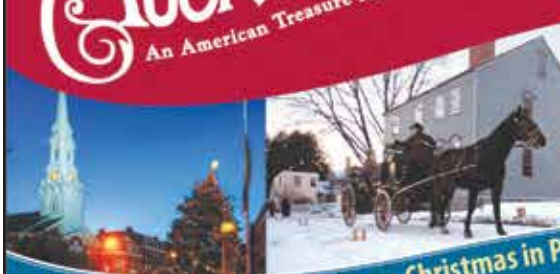
Who's been naughty or nice?

The holidays are in full swing at the Merrimack Center
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Gifts of the arts

What to get the art lover in your life

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Getting art gifts for art people is hard. As Studio 550 owner Monica Leap pointed out in an email, so much is a matter of taste.

Nevertheless, she and a handful of other local art people provided ideas and tidbits via phone and email about what to get the art person in your life this holiday, from handmade creations to tools and experiences.

Art shopping

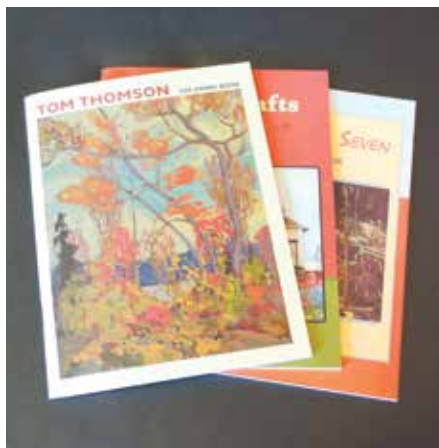
When in doubt, buy something handmade. It's local, it's beautiful, and it's something nobody else has.

You can find great, locally made work by perusing Etsy or New Hampshire Made (nhmade.com), but your best bet is to find something at a gift shop, gallery, fair or event.

Currier Museum of Art gift shop head Heidi Norton said via phone some of her favorite artists selling work at the museum are Barbara Lester, who creates **bright jewelry** from glass; Corey Doherty, who makes **hand-dyed silk scarves**; and Annette Blazon, whose handmade **literary earrings** display typewriter keys, typewriter photos and famous literature references.

You don't need to pay museum admission to peruse the shop, and Norton said she takes in new artists every year, so the merchandise is constantly being updated.

Leap, somewhat biased, said she'd love to receive a **handmade ceramic mug** or bowl for Christmas (and Studio 550 just



Coloring books offered by the Currier Museum of Art. Courtesy photo.

happens to have a large number to choose from right now). But when you're shopping to buy art for someone, personal taste and preference come into consideration, so Leap suggests you forget surprises and just take your gift-receiver with you while shopping.

Tools

Portability and quality are the golden words in novelty art tools this season, in Norton's opinion. She said the museum's **Watercolor Wheel Stack** pack, available for \$10 and containing 24 rich opaque colors, is popular this year. The kit is small, about four inches across, and stackable.

"To have a bunch of colors, you don't have to have a big, long tray," Norton said. "And it travels well."

She also said the **Artist's Tile Set** is a frequent buy among artists. It's perfectly square, small and sturdier than paper, ideal for watercolor, drawings or oil paintings.



On view at the Mill Brook Gallery in Concord. Courtesy photo.

Coloring books always sold fast at the museum shop, and it's no different now that the adult coloring craze has grown to form meet-ups and programs in libraries across the state. Popular artists in general include Johanna Basford and Emma Farrarons, and Norton said shoppers were buying books featuring work by the "Group of Seven," i.e., the Algonquin School Canadian landscape painters prominent from 1920 to 1933.

This gift could be great for an art connoisseur, not necessarily an artist.

"I've always sold coloring books, and I've always sold them to adults," Norton said. "You can take these beautiful artworks you love, and you can color them in and kind of re-live the painting, and have something that's satisfactory when you're done."

To go along with the book, snag some **high-quality colored pencils** made with graphite, which sharpen well, contain good



On view at the Mill Brook Gallery in Concord. Courtesy photo.

pigment and transfer to paper "like silk," Norton said. (She recommended EBoo, Faber-Castell, Derwent Studio and Winsor & Newton brands.)

Shopper, be warned: Leap said she wouldn't recommend purchasing materials or starter artist kits unless you were given specific instructions, or you're giving them to a complete beginner.

Activities

Sometimes the best gift is an experience, and Leap said she highly recommends — besides of course her own Studio 550 — the **Home-stead Woodworking School** (woodschoolnh.com) in Newmarket, which offers lessons for novice, intermediate and advanced woodworkers eager to improve skills. She's also a fan of **Girls at Work, Inc.**, a nonprofit that empowers young girls and women through woodworking projects.

Buy a **gift certificate** or **class** to a local



22 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

24 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

27 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

Looking for more art, theater and classical music? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Art

Events

• **SECOND SUNDAY JAZZ BRUNCH** Brunch with jazz musicians. Sun., Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. \$19.95 or \$8.95 for continental only. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144, ext. 110.

• **GOOD NEIGHBOR SERIES** A series of cultural programs in the Sharon Arts Center exhibition gallery. The series will feature presentations by profes-

sional artists. First and third Saturdays of the month, 7-9:30 p.m. Sharon Arts Center, 30 Grove St., Peterborough. Free. Call 924-7676. sharonarts.org.

• **RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** Exhibit of Russian art, icons, storytelling, cartoons, history, etc. Sat., Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. New England Language Center, 16 Hillside Drive, Rochester. Free. Email marina@anylanguage.org.

• **CELEBRATIONS IN ART:**

CURRIER COLLECTION TOUR Tour of collection that focuses on different kinds of celebrations. Sat., Dec. 19, at 11:30 a.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144, ext. 110.

• **THE ANDRES INSTITUTE OF ART** Offers guided walking and audio tours of its sculpture park and studio. The Institute is open every day, dawn till dusk. The Andres Institute of Art,

98 Route 13, Brookline. free admission. Call 673-8441 or visit andresinstitute.org.

Openings

• **"REMINISCENT: TEXTURE AND PLACE"** Featuring artwork by Stacey Durand and Erik Nohalty. On view Nov. 16 through Jan. 15. Reception Thurs., Dec. 10, 5:30-7 p.m. Derryfield School Lyceum Gallery, 2108 River Road, Manchester. Visit derryfield.org.

• **"SEASCAPE SERIES,"**

"PEOPLE OF THE DAWN SERIES" Art exhibitions featuring work by Ron Plante, showcasing Maine and NH coastal scenes, plus a 6-year study of Northeast Native Americans. On view Dec. 12 through Feb. 19. Reception Sat., Dec. 12, 1-4 p.m. Portion of sales to be donated to Massabesic Audubon Center. Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn. Visit nhadubon.org.

• **PAT THALHAUSER** Open house showcasing weaving, plus

hand-dipped beeswax candles. Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 144 Main St., Francestown.

• **"SIDE BY SIDE"** Art exhibition that benefits Friends of Youth Mentoring Program. Featuring paintings by sisters Bethany Cole Rymes and Hannah Cole Dahar. On view Dec. 21 through Dec. 31. Reception Mon., Dec. 21, 5-7:30 p.m. McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord. Call 225-2515. Visit mcgowanfineart.com.

center, studio or school (find local businesses in the sidebar). If you're on a tighter budget or would rather your art experience supplement another gift, Leap suggests **finding a DIY lesson** online and making a date of it to try out together.

Adele Sanborn, paper artist and founder of Cornerstone Design at Twiggs Gallery, Boscawen, said one way to her heart would be **League of New Hampshire Craftsmen membership** (which includes free passes to the August fair, a 10-percent discount at galleries and tuition discounts at League classes, the New Hampshire Institute of Art, etc.) or a **Currier Museum of Art membership** (free admission all the time, plus early admission to new exhibitions).

If your art person is a theater or classical music buff, check out and purchase tickets for an **upcoming production or concert**.

Books

For your theater enthusiast, actress and theatre KAPOW co-founder Carey Cahoon recommended a handful of books about theater: *What's the Story* by Anne Bogart, *The Necessity of Theater* by Paul Woodruff and *Through the Body: A Practical Guide to Physical Theatre* by Dymphna Cattery.

Sanborn said her "dream machine" art gift would include a handmade travel journal and Zentangle supplies (which could include directions from the book *One Zentangle a Day: A Six-Week Course in Creative Drawing for Relaxation, Inspiration, and Fun*). She also

loves the book *Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative* by Austin Kleon, which has "some cool ideas to support the artist within."

Or for the gift that keeps on giving, Sanborn suggests getting a subscription to an art publication, like Art New England or Somerset Studio. Another popular book that just came out by the *Eat Pray Love* author Elizabeth Gilbert is *Big*

Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear, which offers her own process and opinions on creativity. 🍀

The gift of creativity

Most organizations and businesses hosting art exhibitions or selling art this holiday season (the Currier, Studio 550, Wild Salamander, Twiggs Gallery, League of NH Craftsmen, Kimball Jenkins, etc.) also offer art classes or workshops. Here are a handful of other organizations to look into.

Homestead Woodworking School, 52 Bald Hill Road, Newmarket, wood-schoolnh.com
Girls at Work, 4 Elm St., Manchester, 345-0392, girlswork.org
Sharon Arts Center, 457 Route 123, Peterborough, 836-2550
New Hampshire Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester, 623-0313, nhia.edu
artstream, 10 2nd St., Dover, 516-8500, artstreamstudios.com
Art Happens, 37 Wilton Road, Milford, 654-2287, arthappensnh.com
Beck's Arts Express, 89 Amherst St., Nashua, 781-910-3438, artexpressnh.com

Give art

InTown Manchester Downtown Holiday Market, Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, Thursday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., intownmanchester.com

Currier Museum of Art, gift shop, 150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org, 669-6144

Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com, has a cup sale, with work by 20 different artists, on sale through Jan. 16

Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center, 30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-WILD, wildsalamander.com, hosts a show of affordable art gifts, all on sale, "Good Things Come in Small Packages" through Dec. 23

Mill Brook Gallery & Sculpture Garden, 236 Hopkinton Road, Concord, themillbrookgallery.com, 226-2046, hosts "Artful Gift Giving 2015," which is up till Christmas Eve

4th Annual Holidaze Bizarre, hosted by Wrong Brain, is an alternative craft fair Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the

Newmarket Millspace, 55 Main St., Newmarket, wrongbrain.net

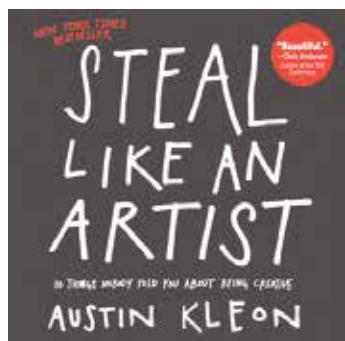
East Colony Fine Art pop-up show, Salzborg Square Shopping Center, 292 Route 101, Amherst, up through Dec. 24, eastcolony.com

Kimball Jenkins School of Art, 266 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, has a student winter exhibition now through Jan. 4

Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter, 778-8856, shows select pieces from the 22 gallery members; it's on view through January

Twiggs Gallery, 254 King St., Boscawen, 975-0015, twigsgallery.wordpress.com, hosts a show, "COZY," with artwork on view and for sale through Dec. 20

League of NH Craftsmen hosts a show, "Yours, Mine and Ours," at the craft center, 49 S. Main St., Suite 100, Concord, through Dec. 18; the organization also has retail galleries across the state, including in Nashua, Sandwich, Meredith, North Conway, Hanover; visit nhcrafts.org



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LOCAL COLOR —

NH art world news



"Presidential Spring" by Susan Hanna. Courtesy image.

• **Winter, again:** You can embrace the season with a new exhibition of paintings at the Gallery on West Pearl Street, located in the Community Council Building, 100 W. Pearl St., Nashua, now through February. The show, "Winter ... Again," is made up of artwork by members of the Hollis Arts Society, including paintings, photographs and jewelry. (For exact weekday hours, call 889-6147, ext. 3203.) There's a reception on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the gallery. Visit hollisartssocietynh.com.

• **Just bizarre:** Wrong Brain — a volunteer-run nonprofit artist collective — presents the 4th Annual Holidaze Bizaare: Alternative Craft Fair this Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Newmarket Mills, 55 Main St., Newmarket. More than 30 vendors will be selling handmade, recycled, vintage, unconventional and unique gifts, including art, clothes, records, cassettes, zines, books, knit, crochet, jewelry, blown glass, woodwork, toys, sculptures, housewares, pins, patches, taxidermy, leather and more. If you do find your holiday gift here, there will be gift wrapping by donation. Laura Harper, Chelsea Paolini and others will provide music, and the Zine Library will highlight Wrong Brain's growing collection of self-published zines, comics, poetry anthologies and art books. There will also be raffles featuring donated art and gift certificates to local businesses. Visit wrongbrain.net.

• **New Hampshire Institute of Art gets techy:** The New Hampshire Institute of Art has two new trustees elected to its board — Stan Fry and Tom Stevens. They bring a different perspective to the arts school, which has recently begun collaborating with several local institutions, including local public schools and UNH Manchester. Fry is recognized as a pioneer and expert in optical character recognition and image scanning technology, and his contributions have helped shape the development, conceptualization, design and creation of dozens of hardware and software imaging products. He's also currently serving as chairman on numerous company boards, with his own companies holding nearly 1,400 patents in various technologies. He also developed the first commercially available scanner. Stevens served as the chief administrative officer of KeyCorp from 2001 to 2013 and served on boards for many civic organizations in Cleveland, Ohio. They join 22 other trustees whose experiences range from artists to developers to business leaders.

— Kelly Sennott

Workshops/classes/ demonstrations

• **CREATIVE STUDIO:** MAKE YOUR OWN CALENDAR Make 2016 calendar inspired by works in the Currier's collection. All ages welcome. Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with museum admission. Visit currier.org, call 669-6144.

• **TEEN NIGHT** Teen night at the studio. Fri., 5-9 p.m. You're Fired Studio, 25 S. River Road, Bedford. You're Fired Studio, 133 Loudon Road, #101, Concord. You're Fired Studio, 264 North Broadway, Salem. You're Fired Studio, 4 Coliseum Ave., Nashua. Studio fees are half off. Visit yourefirednh.com. Bedford 641-3473, Concord 226-3473, Salem 894-5456 and Nashua 204-5559.

• **COMMUNITY EDUCATION** For adults, teens, and children at NH Institute of Art. Disciplines include ceramics, creative writing, drawing, metalsmithing,

photography, printmaking, fibers, and more. NH Institute of Art, 148 Concord St., Manchester. Prices vary depending on type of class and materials needed. Call 623-0313. Visit nhia.edu.

Fairs

• **DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET** Presented by InTown Manchester. Homemade local goods. Thurs., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 17, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester. intownmanchester.com.

• **HOLLY JOLLY CRAFT FAIR** Booths, 80 exhibitors, live Christmas music, fine jewelry, pottery, etc. Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua. joycescraftshows.com, 528-4014.

• **CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOP** Gourmet goodies, more than 60 member artisans selling work.

Fri., Nov. 27, through Tues., Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Kendall House, 5 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Craftworkers-guild.org.

Theater Productions

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Leddy Center production. Dec. 4 through Dec. 13, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Leddy Center, 38 C Ladd's Lane, Epping. \$18. Visit leddycenter.org.

• **WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL** Ogunquit Playhouse performs Irving Berlin show. Dec. 9 through Dec. 20. The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. \$42-\$64. Visit themusichall.org. Call 436-2400.

• **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE** Nashua North Drama Club production. Thurs., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. Nashua North High School, 8 Titan Way, Nashua. \$10. Email nashuanorthdrama@gmail.com.

CURTAIN

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Notes from the theater scene

• **Christmas Carol at the Palace:** One of the Palace Theatre's (80 Hanover St., Manchester) biggest shows of the year — *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens — has started up again. This year's production has a jam-packed schedule, with 14 public performances, plus seven shows dedicated for New Hampshire school-aged children. George Piehl returns in his iconic Scrooge role, while Andrew Foote (who played Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*) plays the narrator and company member Megan Quinn (Mrs. Fezziwig/Laundress/Solicitor #2) returns for her eighth *Christmas Carol* at the Palace. Shows are Dec. 4 through Dec. 22, and tickets range in price from \$25 to \$45. Call 668-5588. Visit palacetheatre.org.

• **Last hurrah:** Kent Stephens' STAGE FORCE presents its 10th anniversary performance of *The Ragpicker's Dream* this weekend, with showtimes Saturday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m., at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. The show is a holiday play reading — no sets or costumes — performed by CJ Lewis, Susan Poulin, James Sears, Whitney Smith, Kathy Somssich, and Kent Stephens, and it includes a funny, poignant collection of tales adapted for the stage by Stephens. The content includes a "glimmering morsel" from Kenneth Graham's *The Wind in the Willows*, poetry by Robert Frost and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, comedy by David Sedaris, plus songs and prose adapted from works by John Cheever, Maeve Binchy and Anne Rivers Siddons. The stories are about homecomings, holi-

• **OLIVER!** Seacoast Rep production directed by Miles Burns, designed by Ben Hart and Brandon James. Nov. 13 through Dec. 20. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. Tickets start at \$22. Visit seacoastrep.org, call 433-4472.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Palace Theatre production. Dec. 4 through Dec. 22. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. \$25-\$45. Visit palacetheatre.org. Call 668-5588.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Rochester Opera House production. Fri., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 2 and 7 p.m. Rochester Opera House, 31 Wakefield St., Rochester. \$22-\$26. Visit rochesteroperahouse.com, call 750-7777.

• **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** Featuring more than 100 young performers from across New Hampshire, students from Eastern Ballet Institute,

Concord Community Music School's Purple Finches Children's Chorus, members of the Cabbageheads, Timbre Drums, aerial dance works by Ciel Rouge Moving Company. Fri., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. \$16.50. Call 225-1111, visit ccanh.com.

• **A NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS** Original production featuring original staging of seasonal stories by Marguerite Mathews, Greg Gathers. Performance of *Christmas 1901*, *The Christmas That Almost Wasn't*, *The Christmas Monks* with Victorian-style Toy Theatre Figures. Fri., Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. \$24. Visit pontine.org, email info@pontine.org, call 436-6660.

• **LUNGS** Theatre KAPOW pro-

duction. Fri., Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 4:30 p.m. Derry Opera House, 29 W. Broadway, Derry. \$20. Visit tkapow.com/lungs.html.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Boire Dance Academy show. Sat., Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m. Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon Road, Milford. \$20. Email boiredanceacademy@gmail.com.

• **A DICKENS OF A DAY** Enjoy readings from works of Charles Dickens, with musical interludes by Ray Sweeney. Activities, games refreshments. Part of Festival of Trees. Sat., Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. Tuttle Library, 45 Main St., Antrim. Free. Visit antrimfestivaloftrees.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Turning Point Center of Dance production. Sat., Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.; Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St.,



A Christmas Carol at the Palace Theatre has kicked off. Matthew Lomanno photo.

day heroes and miracles that illustrate what the season is all about.

This year's show will be especially poignant because these will be the final performances for STAGE FORCE, which will cease operations at the end of December. Tickets are \$18. Call 436-2400. Visit themusichall.org.

• **Miles Burns named permanent artistic director:** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre has hired former interim artistic director Miles Burns for the permanent position, a decision to solidify management structure coming into the new season. Burns had headed the youth theater program before that.

"In the past year we've learned to keep what works and lose what doesn't," Executive Director Kathleen Cavalaro said in a press release. "Miles works. He's an inspiring leader and a talented and prolific artist. He's earned my full confidence."

The decision makes Burns, 29, one of the youngest artistic directors of a regional theater in the country. He's performed in many plays, written more than 15 original shows and penned more than 75 original songs for the Rep's youth programs. Burns is also director of the Rep's winter production, *Oliver!*, running through Dec. 20.

— Kelly Sennott

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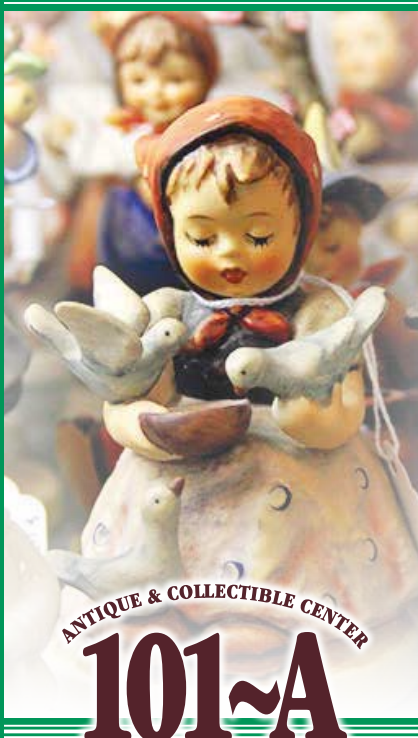


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ARTS

The voice of giving back

Ronan Tynan returns to Manchester

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Ronan Tynan sang at the Dec. 6 Patriots game, Ronald Reagan's state funeral, George H.W. Bush's 80th birthday and the memorial for the Boston Marathon Bombings.

This week, he returns to Manchester's Palace Theatre for a concert on Tuesday, Dec. 15, with a special guest performance by the New Hampshire Police Association Pipes and Drums. He'll perform a variety of patriotic and Christmas songs, plus favorite Irish tunes — maybe "Danny Boy" or "The Old Man," but he wouldn't go into specifics during his pre-event phone interview.

"We're going to focus more on festive songs, but of course, I'll make sure all the popular Irish songs are there," he said. "I normally don't share information for a concert. It makes it all a nice surprise. ... There's a wealth of Irish in the Manchester area, and they want to be treated to the songs they know and love."

Tynan was born in Dublin, Ireland, with phocomelia, which caused both his lower legs to be underdeveloped. This did not deter him — as a boy, he was "wild as a March hare," according to his website, riding horses and racing motorcycles.

When he was 20, a driving accident injury forced him to have his legs amputated below the knees, yet within weeks he was climbing the stairs of his college dorm, and within a few years time, winning gold, silver and bronze medals at the Paralympics in the 1980s, creating world records in the process.

In the following years, he became the first person with a disability, ever, admitted to the National College of Physical Education in Limerick, and he became a physician specializing in orthopedic sports injuries.

It wasn't until he was 33, well into his residency, that he began to explore his true passion: singing. His father encouraged him to study voice, and he went on to win numerous competitions and an international operatic singing contest. Then he joined the Irish Tenors, a PBS musical singing trio from Ireland. The rest is history.

Having accomplished a "fair bit" in his

Hear Ronan Tynan sing

Where: Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester

When: Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$30.50-\$60.50

Contact: 668-5588, palacetheatre.org



Ronan Tynan. Courtesy photo.

life, he's licensed to say faith and good parents can make all the difference.

"I think the most important thing in life is the start-up of life — with your folks, your parents. Parents play a huge role in a child's life. If the groundwork and the kindness and the belief in the child is given at that age, that belief will ring true all the way. People will find the will that's within them," Tynan said via phone.

Today he lives in Boston, and has for about 19 years. Many of his recent performances have been in the wake of tragedy, but much of his incentive to sing and tour is to give back to this country.

"I think it's always important to pay back to the people. This country has been so good to me, and so it's always important for me to give back," he said. "It seems like sometimes your voice is needed to heal and to bring some kind of closure to an event that has been so tough on so many. ... Americans are strong people and they believe in living their lives, and that's what's admirable — that even in the depths of tragedy, they're able to rise above it."

The other incentive is the joy of it. He still practices a "little bit" of medicine in Ireland, but the majority of his work is singing, which he does across the country. At the time of his interview, he'd just sung with the Boston Pops and would be performing at a Notre Dame vs. Boston College game soon after.

"I've been doing this for 35 years. It's the greatest buzz you can get," he said. "You can allow people to have nostalgia and memories. You can bring so much to them."



LOCAL FIREFIGHTER, JAZZ PIANIST

Craig Fahey, a Manchester Community Music School faculty member, jazz pianist and local firefighter, will perform a holiday concert featuring jazzy impressions of holiday favorites during your lunch break on Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 12:10 p.m., at Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell St., Manchester. Selections will include "The Charlie Brown Christmas," "Carol of the Bells," "My Favorite Things" and other classics.

This concert is part of the school's "Music's on the Menu" series, which means free admission. Visit mcmusicschool.org. Call 622-9813. Don't forget to bring a bagged lunch.

Concord. \$18. Call 485-8710.

• THE RAGPICKER'S DREAM

Kent Stephens Stage Force productions. Sat., Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth. \$18. Call 436-2400. Visit themusichall.org.

• **SAVING SANTA** PAPA youth production, written by Miles Burns. Sat., Dec. 12, at 11 a.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 11 a.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 11 a.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. \$10. Visit seacoastrep.org.

• ARTICULATE PLAYREADING: BAKERSFIELD MIST

Reading by theatre KAPOW. Play by Stephen Sachs. Comedy-drama explores what makes art and people unique, told through true story involving authentication of a work of art found in a trailer park. Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with admission. Visit currier.org. Call 669-6144.

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRISTMAS** Written by George Hosker-Bouley. Mon., Dec. 14, at 5:30 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 15, at 5:30 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16, at 5:30 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. \$39.99, includes dinner. Call 926-0330.

• **CHRISTMAS AT HOGWARTS** *Stranger Than Fiction* improv show. Tues., Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth. \$10. Visit seacoastrep.org.

• **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE** Hampstead Stage touring company show. Tues., Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry. Visit derrypl.org.

• **EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (AND THEN SOME)** Majestic Theatre production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 1:30 p.m. Executive Court, 1199 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester. \$28-\$42, includes dinner. Visit majestictheatre.net.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** New Hampshire School of Ballet pro-

duction. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. \$15.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Peacock Players production. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua. \$12-\$17. Visit peacockplayers.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Ballet Misha production. Sat., Dec. 19, at 1 and 7 p.m. Stockbridge Theatre, Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry. \$20. Visit balletmisha.com. Email didma-nchester@comcast.net.

Classical Music Events

• **SLEIGH RIDE: OLD & NEW CHRISTMAS FAVORITES** Part of Bach's Lunch Concert series. Performers include Trilium, Peggo Horstmann Hodes, Hannah Schramm Murray, Jane Berlin Pauley. Thurs., Dec. 10, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. Visit cemusicschool.org. Call 228-1196.

• **CHRISTMAS FROM THE AMERICAS** Portsmouth Pro Musica holiday concerts. Featuring Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies From the Southwest" and Gwyneth Walker's "Appalachian Carols." Fri., Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. St. Mary's Church, 150 Central Ave., Dover. Visit portsmouth-promusica.org.

• **CRECHES AND CAROLS** Global presentation of music and nativity. Bell and vocal choirs, Indonesian ensemble. Sat., Dec. 12, 3-5 p.m. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 3 Lutheran Drive, Nashua. Visit ctknashua.org.

• **NEW ENGLAND HARP ORCHESTRA** Library concert. Sat., Dec. 12, at 1:30 p.m. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord. Free. Call 225-8670.

• **SYMPHONY NEW HAMPSHIRE HOLIDAY POPS** Concert led by conductor/artistic director Jonathan McPhee. Sat., Dec. 12, at 8 p.m. Keefe Center for the Arts, 117 Elm St., Nashua. \$18-\$49. Visit symphonynh.org.

• **LAKES REGION SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA POPS CONCERT** Featuring guest vocalists Michael Gallagan and Harmony Markey. Sat., Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 3 p.m. Inter-Lakes, 1 Laker Lane, Meredith. \$15. Visit lrso.org.

• **CONCORD COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT** Featuring Susie Burke, David Surette, Kent Allyn. Sat., Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Concord Community Music, 23 Wall St., Concord. \$15. Visit cemusicschool.org, call 228-1196.

• **"GRATITUDE AND GRACE: CAROLS NEW AND OLD"** Women Singing Out! holiday concert. Featuring "Ceremony of the Carols," traditional pieces, etc. Sat., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth. \$15. Bring non-perishable food or hygiene item. Womensingingout.org.

• **A NEW DECEMBER** NH Gay Men's Chorus concert. Sat., Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton St., Concord. \$18. Visit nhgmc.com.

• **HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT** Featuring Susie Burke and David Surette with Kent Allyn. Sat., Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall St., Concord. \$15. Visit cemusicschool.org. Call 228-1196.

• **CAROLING IN THE GALLERIES** Manchester Choral Society performances at the museum. Sat., Dec. 12, noon-1:30 p.m. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Free with admission. currier.org, 669-6144.

• **RING THE CHRISTMAS BELLS** Souhegan Valley Chorus concert. Chorus joined by Merrimack Valley Ringers. Sun., Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Souhegan High School, 412 Boston Post Road, Amherst. souheganvalleychorus.org.

• **A CARMEN BRADFORD CHRISTMAS** Capitol Jazz Orchestra concert featuring Grammy-winning vocalist Carmen Bradford. Sun., Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. Concord Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. \$35. Call 225-1111, visit ccanh.com.

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LISTINGS

28 Crafts

Fairs, workshops...

29 Dance

Ballroom, folk...

31 Health & Wellness

Workshops, exercises...

31 Miscellaneous

Fairs, festivals, yard sales...

35 Nature &

Gardening

Hikes, animal events...

35 Over 50

Social outings, sports...

35 Sports & Rec.

Spectator sports, runs...

35 Volunteer

Where to help out

FEATURES

29 Kiddie pool

Family activities this week.

30 The Gardening Guy

Advice on your outdoors.

31 Treasure Hunt

There's gold in your attic.

34 Techie

Get the details on the latest and greatest tech.

36 Car Talk

Click and Clack give you car advice.

Get Listed

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

Looking for more events for the kids, nature-lovers and more? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play or online at hipposcout.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Screaming of a Fright Christmas

Fright Kingdom reopens for a weekend of holiday horrors

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

'Tis the season for rabid reindeer and cannibalistic gingerbread men at Fright Kingdom's Fright Before Christmas, open Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 10 p.m. The indoor scream park will be dealing out its usual scares with interactive characters, haunted houses and spooky games, but with a holiday twist.

Since its debut three years ago, the event has become a popular and highly anticipated one for horror fans.

"New Hampshire has become a mecca for haunted houses, but we are currently the only one doing a scary Christmas," Fright Kingdom owner Tim Dunne said. "[Workers from] other attractions are actually a portion of our customer base [for Fright Before Christmas]. They come from haunted houses all over the eastern seaboard. We're seeing it [develop] a cult following here."

This year's event will be the largest yet, utilizing about 50 percent more of the park's area and featuring additional characters and haunts.

The inspiration behind Fright Before Christmas, Dunne said, is a character from Germanic folklore named Krampus. According to the legend, Krampus is Saint Nicholas' evil counterpart who captures naughty children, brings them to his lair and eats them.

"Here in America, [parents] say, 'Santa will give you coal,'" Dunne



Actor John Witkowski as JoJo Clown at Fright Before Christmas. Courtesy photo.

said, "but parents in Europe say, 'If you're bad, Krampus will come get you.'"

The Fright Before Christmas experience begins the moment guests step out of their cars, with creepy characters in the parking lot waiting to greet them. Inside, characters like evil elves, cannibal gingerbread men, rabid reindeer, crazed carolers and a sinister Jack Frost will be roaming the midway, mingling and taking photos with guests.

The main haunted house in use will be Bloodmare Manor, a Victorian mansion once home to the diabolical Bloodmare family. It's one of the main attractions during the park's regular season as well, but at Fright Before Christmas, it's a different experience.

"Our creative director spent a lot of time researching the old Victorian style and how a Victorian mansion would look during Christmas, so the decorations and the actors and everything are very detailed," Dunne said. "It's like

stepping into a different time."

See what it's like to be buried alive in the Coffin Ride, a simulator where guests can experience being placed in a coffin, picked up and loaded into a hearse, lowered into a grave and covered with dirt. A nightvision camera will be recording inside the coffin so others can see the participants' reactions. The ride is free with a VIP ticket or \$10 with general admission.

Try your hand at midway games like Casket Ball or get your picture taken in the photo booth with Krampus in the backdrop.

"I can't even tell you how many people make it their family Christmas card," Dunne said.

There will be several vendors at the park that weekend, including Oneail FX Studios with masks and prosthetics, Krampus gear and other spooky Christmas merchandise; Shadows on the Wall, selling horror memorabilia and collectibles; and Psychic Readings by Nancy.

The highlight of Fright Before

Christmas, Dunne said, is the Creepy Christmas Costume Contest. People have dressed up as horror versions of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, a Salvation Army bell-ringer and, inevitably, Krampus. Judging will begin at 8 p.m. on both nights, and both winners will receive a cash prize of \$100.

Due to the unique nature of the contest, there are people who prepare for months in advance and drive long distances to participate. The costumes can get extremely elaborate, especially those created by actors or other staff members at haunted attractions. Dunne said he is "blown away" by the amount of time, money and effort people put into the costumes.

"Most of us in the haunted house business, we all share one thing in common — we love Halloween," he said. "We love dressing up as characters and stepping out of reality. The creativity in the haunted house industry in New Hampshire is unbelievable." 🍷

Fright Before Christmas

When: Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Where: Fright Kingdom, 12 Simon St., Nashua

Cost: General admission tickets are \$13. VIP tickets are \$25 and include no wait for the attractions, a free cup of cocoa, a free Coffin Ride and one free game ticket.

Visit: frightb4xmas.com

Crafts

Holiday craft workshops

• **HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP** Create a lovely centerpiece to put on your holiday table. Please bring a container and any items such as boughs,

branches or other greenery to share. Sat., Dec. 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Road, Wilton. Visit wiltonlibrarynh.org.

• **STAR ORNAMENT** Crafters will make their own paper beads, add some sparkle and string the

beads onto a wire along with some accent beads to create a shimmering holiday star ornament. Sun., Dec. 13, 1 to 3:30 p.m. League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Fine Craft Gallery, Route 3, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith. Tuition costs

\$19 per student, and materials cost \$10. Pre-registration is required. Visit meredith.nhcrafts.org/classes.

• **NATIONAL COCOA DAY CRAFT** Mix your own hot chocolate powder, than create adorable snowman jars to store it

in. Sun., Dec. 13, noon to 2 p.m. Sandown Public Library, 305 Main St., Sandown. Visit sandownlibrary.us.

• **MINI FELT BALL WREATH** No felting experience is needed. Wed., Dec. 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sandown Public Library, 305

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

All aboard

Chunky's Cinema will continue its Christmas Classics series with the *The Polar Express* (G) on Sunday, Dec. 13, at all locations (151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham). Showtimes are 9 a.m., 12:30, 3:45 and 6:30 p.m. Each child will get a custom-made golden ticket to get punched as they enter the theater. During the hot chocolate scene, Chunky's staff will bring free hot chocolate around to everyone. Kids are encouraged to wear their PJs. Tickets cost \$3. Visit chunkys.com/special-events.

Cookin' cookies

The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry) will have a cooking class on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon, as part of its Sweet Saturdays series. Kids ages 6 through 10 are invited to **make their own holiday cookie sampler**. The cost for the class is \$40. Visit culinary-playground.com or call 339-1664.

Santa's in town

Visit with Santa at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 11 a.m. Kids can listen to Santa read a story, get a photo taken with him, then participate in a craft. This event is free with the regular museum admission fee. Visit aviationmuseumofnh.org.

Santa will be stopping by the Chester Public Library (3 Chester St.) for the annual **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 to 11 a.m. Santa will be there from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Kids can enjoy crafts, games, holiday stories, a photo with Santa and, of course, breakfast. Tickets cost \$6, or a maximum of \$25 for a family of six. Call 887-3404 or visit chesterlibrary.com.

Santa will be at the Greeley Park Gazebo (100 Concord St., Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 12, from noon to 2 p.m., for the



Courtesy of Aviation Museum of New Hampshire.

Nashua Parks & Recreation Department's Seventh Annual **Santa in the Park Event**. The Gazebo will be transformed into Santa's Nashua Workshop, where children can have their picture taken with Santa (by camera) and maybe even get a present. This is a free event. Call 594-3465.

Have **Breakfast with Santa** at the Slusser Senior Center (164 Houston Drive, Hopkinton) on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 to 11 a.m. Breakfast includes eggs, pancakes, bacon, muffins, hash browns and more. The family rate is \$18, \$5 for ages 12 and up, \$3 ages 3 to 11. Visit hopkintonrec.com to register.

You can make it

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store (80 Storrs St., Concord) will host two Little Makers holiday craft classes. On Friday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m., kids will learn how to **make holiday ornaments** and characters out of pine cones. On Saturday, Dec. 12, at 9:30 a.m., they'll **make snow globes** out of mason jars. The cost for each class is \$30. Visit joann.com.

Stop by a studio space at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) for a Creative Studio day on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Make your own calendar** for 2016 inspired by works in the Currier's collection. All ages are welcome. This project is free with general admission to the museum. Admission is free for New Hampshire residents from 10 a.m. to noon. Visit currier.org or call 669-6144.

Main St., Sandown. Visit sandownlibrary.us

Knitting workshops

• KNOT JUST KNITTERS If you knit, crochet, or do other needlework, come for an evening of crafting. Create and chat, share your projects, and meet some fellow crafters. You may bring your own project or help knit and crochet hats and mittens for charity (some patterns will be available). Please bring your own supplies. Tues., Dec. 15,

6 to 7:30 p.m. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St., Concord. Call 225-8670.

Pottery & clay workshops

• TRY IT! CLAY WORKSHOP One-day workshop lets you try a class before signing up for a full 10-week program. Register by calling the studio. every Sat. from 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Studio 550 Art Center, 550 Elm St., Manchester. \$45.00. Visit 550arts.com. Call 232-5597.

Dance

Events

• FREESTYLE FRIDAY: ECSTATIC DANCE A barefoot boogie for all ages and sizes. Explore music, movement and community. No experience required. Fridays, Dec. 18, Jan. 1, and 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m. West Street Ward House, 41 West St., Concord. \$5 to \$10. Contact nicolegrubman@hotmail.com.

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Gifts for the gardener

Yes to tools, no to houseplants

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com



It's time to think about buying gifts for our loved ones. For gardeners, there are so many options, from under \$10 to over \$500.

Let's start with the no-no's: Unless you've been asked for houseplants, don't buy houseplants. The only exception to that might be an orchid in bloom, but in general, houseplants are work and require space. Likewise, avoid buying a do-it-yourself beehive kit or an earthworm farm for digesting the leftover lettuce that would otherwise go in the compost.

On the other hand, a truckload of good **compost** would be welcomed by almost any gardener. Just don't have Santa deliver it on the driveway. Santa has to deliver to the garden, or near the garden. Composted barn scrapings are sold by most dairy farmers and garden centers and by some lawn maintenance companies. Ask for "hot composted manure" or aged barn scrapings. The hot composted stuff should not have any viable weed seeds.

Garden gloves are good gifts. I like stretchy gloves impregnated with latex on the palms, but not on the backs, so hands can breathe.

Last summer I got a set of **deer-repelling blinking lights**. They are solar-powered and emit a red LED light all night that scares deer or other pests. It is called Nite-Guard Solar (niteguard.com). You need at least four of these so that one is facing each direction around the garden at eye-height of the deer or raccoon. In my limited use, they seem to be a big help. Of course, with heavy deer pressure, only an 8-foot fence is 100-percent effective.

Speaking of deer, another problem they present is Lyme disease, carried by ticks that deer and mice carry. There is a **gaiter** available that is impregnated with permethrin. These gaiters wrap around your pants to prevent ticks from getting to you – and to kill them if they try to attach to your pant legs. If you have a lots of ticks, these may be a great help (lymeez.com). This is a new version of one that I tried earlier.

I'm not, in general, a big fan of rototillers, but was given a little one to try out last spring. It's called the **Mantis tiller** (mantis.com). It only weighs 24 pounds and digs down to a maximum of 10 inches. I used it for working compost into the top 6 inches of my vegetable garden and found that it did a good job. It starts easily and runs well.

My basic complaint with large tillers is that they can go down 18 inches or so, moving microorganisms from one soil depth to another. This little guy is less likely to do that. Big ones can also damage soil structure, particularly if wet.

This summer I got a **sauerkraut crock** from Gardeners Supply (gardeners.com) and like it a lot. Mine has a 1.3-gallon capacity and comes with a kit that includes weights to keep the kraut submerged. It has a water-sealed air lock for the cover, which allows the gases to be vented, but no extraneous airborne yeasts or bacteria to enter it.

Every year I mention my favorite weeding tool, the **Cobrahead Weeder** (cobrahead.com). It is available everywhere now because it really works: like a single steel finger it can tease out long grass roots, prepare a place for a tomato seedling, or get under a big weed, allowing you to pull from above and below. If your sweetie doesn't have one, get one, and she'll love you even more!

Books are always good gifts. I recently got a copy of a nice book by Vermont garden designer Gordon Hayward and his wife Mary called *Tending Your Garden: A Year-Round Guide to Garden Maintenance*. Hayward is a hands-on guy who knows a lot, and the book is full of lovely photos and sensible ideas. I also love his book *Stone in the Garden*.

Forest Trees of Vermont by Trevor Evans is one of the nicest guides to trees I have seen — great photos, easy-to use, and it even comes with a little ruler for measuring leaves! (Available at ForestryPress.com.)

In general, if you like an author, any book by the same author will be good. Thus you could look for books by Michael Dirr (trees, shrubs), Barbara Damroch (general gardening), Ed Smith (vegetables) or Sydney Eddison (flowers and design). And I would be remiss if I didn't mention my own books — they cover just about everything, but with an organic bias. My *New Hampshire Gardener's Companion* is just out in an updated second edition.

If you can't find anything, get a **gift certificate** to a local garden center and let your loved one pick a gift. Every serious gardener lusts after new perennials and shrubs, so why not facilitate the process with a gift certificate? And the garden centers would be happy for your business at this slow time of year.

Henry's website is Gardening-Guy.com. Send questions to him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

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Dear Donna,

I'm writing to show you a log cabin that is 5" x 5" x 3.5." I think it was an incense burner, and someone changed it to a toy. It is from Vermont and has what I think was the original box inside. It says "maple creme candies." I always thought these were for incense burning. Is this correct, or was this for candies?

Lynne from Barnstead

Dear Lynne,

I think that this log cabin was for use as a toy after the candies were gone, and not for incense burning. I remember all the ones that we would get as souvenirs from the White Mountains. The ones for burning incense had a tin chimney so that the smoke could escape. They also had a tin part under the roof to protect against fire.

I am sure they made all kinds of these for many reasons and in different sizes as well. Yours, I believe, was originally for candies and then you could take the amber-colored paper that's in your picture and make window covers out of it. That would make it a toy or just a nice reminder of a trip to Vermont.

The value on yours is in the \$40 range.



And even though it was never meant to be a burner, it still has the value because of the subject and size of it. Being a log cabin makes it desirable to anyone from New England.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

Health & Wellness Support groups

• **RECOVERY INTERNATIONAL** Weekly meetings offer support for those struggling with stress, anxiety, panic, mood disorders, fatigue, insomnia, anger, fear and hopelessness. In Manchester, Mon., 7 to 9 p.m.; In Londonderry, Thur., 7 to 9 p.m. Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, In Cypress Center, 401 Cypress St., Manchester. Robie House, 183c Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Manchester: Call 624-0086. Londonderry: 785-2413.

• **GENERAL INFERTILITY PEER SUPPORT GROUP** Peer-led support group open to women and men, individuals and couples, in any stage of parenthood. Second Tues., 6 to 7:30 p.m. Presidential Oaks, 200 Pleasant St., Concord. Please pre-register and confirm dates at resolenewengland.org/support.

Wellness workshops

• **ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS** Learn important skills for asking questions and focusing on decisions, and increase communication information gathering and shared decision making. You'll leave the workshop with a practical solution-based strategy you can apply right away to almost any area in your life. Thurs., Dec. 10,

6 to 8 p.m. Parent Information Center, 54 Old Suncook Road, Concord. Free. Pre-registration is required. Call 224-7005 or email your name, email address, the training date and title of the training to frontdesk@picnh.org.

• **OPEN MEDITATION SESSIONS** Open meditation sessions, followed by time for discussion. Tues., and Thurs., 9 to 10 a.m., and Mon., 7 to 8 a.m. and 8:30 to 10 a.m. Aryaloka Buddhist Center, 14 Heartwood Circle, Newmarket. Free. Call 659-5456.

• **EXPLORING OUR WAY AUTISM PROGRAM** The program provides an opportunity for children on the autism spectrum and their families to explore the museum with support from museum staff and volunteers. First Sun. of the month (during school year) from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Children's Museum of Dover, 6 Washington St., Dover. Free admission to families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. Call 742-2002. Visit childrensmuseum.org.

Miscellaneous Festivals and fairs

• **WOLFEBORO FESTIVAL OF TREES** Features more than 65 decorated trees, continuous entertainment and light refreshments. Sat., Dec. 12, and Sun.,

Dec. 13. Wright Museum, 77 Center St., Wolfboro. Daily admission costs \$5, \$2 for children 8 and under and \$12 max. for families. Visit wolfeborofestivaloftrees.com.

• **PSYCHIC FAIR** 17 Readers (15 minute sessions). Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New Hampshire Metaphysical, 3 Sanborn Road, Londonderry. \$25 for one reader or \$60 for 3 readers. For more visit NHMetaphysical.com or email JulieAnn@JulieAnnGadziala.com or call 782-6200.

Card, board & dice games for adults

• **MAH JONGG** Beginners to established players welcome. every Tues. and Thurs. from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye. Call 964-8401. Visit rye-publiclibrary.org.

• **WEEKLY CRIBBAGE LEAGUE** Weekly Cribbage League in Merrimack. Alcohol and smoking is not permitted. Also looking for substitutes. Wednesday nights. Starts between 5:15 and 5:45 p.m. League runs through April. VFW, 282 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack. Cost \$5/week with weekly payouts for top teams. For more info, contact Scott at 429-9521 or mortimer@gmail.com.

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CRAFT FAIR FUN



- The Auburn Village School will have a **Holiday Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the AVS gymnasium (11 Eaton Hill Road, Auburn). There will be raffles, crafters, vendors, concessions and a visit from Santa. Visit avsholidayfair.com.
- Stop by Milly's Tavern (500 Commercial St., Manchester) on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a **Holiday Craft Fair** to benefit New Horizons. Browse crafts and baked goods made by local vendors and enter a raffle for a \$1

donation.

- The Weare Lions Club is holding its annual **Breakfast with Santa and Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Center Woods Elementary School (14 Center Road, Weare). There will be holiday music and games for kids, local crafters, Wreaths for Weare and breakfast with Santa. Breakfast costs \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Bring a canned good or non-perishable food item for the Weare Food Pantry to be entered in a raffle for a holiday basket. Visit facebook.com/wearelionsclub.
- There's a **Holly Jolly Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza (2 Somerset Blvd., Nashua) with about 70 exhibitors displaying everything from fine art and wooden crafts to quilts and home decor. Visit joycescraftshows.com.
- Bishop Brady High School's 10th Annual **Christmas Craft Fair** is on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the gymnasium (25 Columbus Ave., Concord). Shop goods by local crafters and artisans, with proceeds supporting Bishop Brady's Habitat for Humanity. Visit bishopbrady.edu.

- **SCRABBLE NIGHT** Bring a board, a friend, or a snack. All ages welcome to play. Held in the Richmond Room. second Wed. of every month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford. Call 472-2300. Visit bedfordnhlibrary.org.
- **GAMING DAY** Join Play Date NH as they teach an assortment of new board games, card games and role playing games. Second Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. Call 886-6030.

Holiday events

- **REASON FOR THE SEASON** Enjoy a wagon ride with Santa to find your family's perfect tree. Mrs. Claus will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to little ones and hand out apple ornaments and candy canes. Warm up with some hot apple cider and get your family photo taken. Sat., Dec. 12, and Sun., Dec. 13, beginning every hour from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. DeMerritt Hill Farm, 66 Lee Road, Lee. Registration is required. Visit demerithillfarm.com.
- **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Music, storytelling and holiday refreshments. Wed., Dec. 16, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry. Visit derrypl.org.

Pet events

- **HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS** Bring your furry friend to meet Santa. You are welcome to have

multiple pets in the photo and family members are welcome too. You'll have a choice of a few festive background for your photo. No appointments are necessary. Please do not wear green as it will not show well in the photo. All proceeds from pet photos support the shelter's pets. Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to noon. Animal Hospital of Nashua at Amherst, 105 Ponemah Road, Amherst. There is a \$10 donation per 4x6 photo, which includes a card stock frame and other photo packages are available for purchase. Payment must be either cash or check. Visit hsfn.org/events.

- **PET ADOPTION DAY** Shelters from across New England bring pets available for adoption. fourth Sat. of every month at 11 a.m. First Congregational Church, 3 Main St., Pelham. Visit arnne.org. Call 233-4801.

Religion-related events

- **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM** The church will be transformed into the streets of Bethlehem. The characters are portrayed by the congregation and include the innkeeper, Mary, Joseph and their new baby along with Roman soldiers, census takers, shopkeepers and the general citizens of Bethlehem. Fri., Dec. 11, 6 to 8 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 12, 5 to 8 p.m. New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, 33 Stanleys Road, Loudon. Free and open to public. Call 224-1311.
- **ECKANKAR WORSHIP SERVICE** Religious service.

Second Sun., 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. Free. Call 713-8944.

Trips & travel events

- **CHRISTMAS AT THE NEWPORT MANSION** See two of Newport's most elegant mansions decorated and on display for the holiday season. Trip includes deluxe motor coach round trip transportation, admission to the Breakers & Marble House Mansions, Tour of Newport and a professional tour guide. Sat., Dec. 12. Merrimack, NH, 03054 Merrimack., \$69. Please contact the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department at 882-1046 or via email at mecasparius@merrimacknh.gov.
- **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S TORUK SHOW** 40 tickets available, so register early. Due to the popularity of this show and ticket availability, the seats will be in different sections. Event on Sat., Dec. 12., 4 p.m.; Bus will leave at 1:30 p.m. Greeley Park, Nashua. \$130 per person and includes a coach bus ride. \$30 non-refundable deposit also required. For more information, please call the Nashua Parks & Recreation Dept. at 589-3370. The easiest way to register is to do to the Department in person, located at 1000 Concord St.

Fundraisers/auctions

- **CHRISTMAS TREE SALE** The Rotary Club of Merrimack will hold its annual Christmas Tree Sale with over 350 fresh

Lighting the way

Candia event offers a mile of holiday fun

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Let the lights be your guide to Christmas fun and festivities at the Lights on the Hill event, presented by Candia Congregational Church on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 1 to 8 p.m. A path illuminated by hundreds of luminaries will lead visitors to 10 different sites, each with an activity, exhibit or performance.

The church hosted the first Lights on the Hill in 1997 as a way to share its ministry and celebrate the holidays with family, friends and the community.

“Christmas can be filled with materialistic noise, shopping malls and crowds,” said Deb Puderbaugh, one of the event coordinators. “So we’re attempting to have a simple, country Christmas in an old-fashioned, quiet, beautiful country setting.”

The event was traditionally held on two days in the evenings, but last year, it was changed to a one-day event beginning in the afternoon. Puderbaugh said the church decided to keep the change this year after receiving positive feedback from families who don’t want to keep their young children up late or don’t feel comfortable walking at night.

The active sites span over a mile. There will be shuttle bus transportation available as well, but most people prefer the walk to get the full experience of the luminary-lit path.

Visitors can pick up a brochure and ask questions at the registration table in the main level of the church.

The church sanctuary will have various performances throughout the day and evening. First up is an interactive Christmas caroling concert (1 p.m.), which includes a song booklet for the audience to choose what they want to sing. Other performances include Moore Music School (1:30 p.m.), Nicole Murphy (3 p.m.), the Jesse Remington High School choir (4 p.m.), Granite State Cloggers (5:30 p.m.) and the Concord Coachmen Chorus (6 p.m.).

The lower level of the church will house the Christmas Cafe, where people can grab a light meal and hot drink, as well as the Christmas store, full of inexpensive stocking stuffers, where elves will be helping children do their own shopping and gift-wrapping.

Head over to the Smyth Building to view an exhibit of creches from around the world, listen to music by piano and voice students and learn about the history of Candia from the Heritage Commission.

There will be homemade baked goods for sale in the School House throughout the event.



The illuminated path at Lights on the Hill. Courtesy photo.

Warm up with a cup of brew at the Coffeehouse in the Masonic Hall (5 to 8 p.m.) There will be coffee, desserts, acoustic performances and table-top games.

Step inside the “Bethlehem stable,” a.k.a. the Jesse Remington Barn, to see a Christmas nativity with live animals. Then, on the barn lawn enjoy some marshmallow-toasting at the campfire (4 to 8 p.m.).

Kids can get their faces painted (2 to 5 p.m.) and decorate gingerbread cookies in the Remington Education Center.

This year’s Christmas Craft will be held in Steven’s Hall. Have your picture taken next to a Christmas tree, then use the photo to make a personalized ornament or decoration.

Be sure to catch Santa in the Shiloh building (4 to 7 p.m.) for his first time attending Lights on the Hill.

Also a new addition is the town tree-lighting (7:30 p.m.), which will take place across the street from barn.

Everyone hosting an activity or performing at Lights on the Hill is a volunteer, and Puderbaugh said that’s part of what makes it such a special event.

“We want it that way, because that’s part of the Christmas spirit — sharing talents and giving back to the community,” she said. “We’re coming together to a safe, fun place in a hectic world.”

Lights on the Hill

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, from 1 to 8 p.m.

Where: Candia Congregational Church (1 South Road) and select buildings between the corner of High Street and South Road. There will be marked parking areas near the church as well as additional parking at Smyth Public Library (55 High St.)

Cost: Free admission

Visit: facebook.com/lightsonthehillNH

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IN/OUT TECH

Geeksmas for less

Thrifty tech gift ideas

By John "jaQ" Andrews
jandrews@hippopress.com

The wish lists of gadget geeks tend to be chock full of expensive items. The latest technology comes at a price, obviously. But there are quite inexpensive ways to bring joy into the serious nerd's life.

I mean, still by buying them stuff. This is America after all.

Power Banks

These little external batteries for smartphones have become so commonplace that they're stocked beside cheap earbuds and iPhone cases at discount clothing stores. They provide extra power to a phone or other small device through its charging port. Since they work with the USB charging cables people already own, you don't need to worry about finding a compatible one.

Most power banks will be labeled with a capacity, with a number in units of mAh. That's milliamp-hours, and as you've probably guessed, a bigger number is usually better, as that will keep a device charged longer.

One of my favorites is sold by gmyle.com, named "2500mAh Wallet Sized USB External Battery." It's the shape and size of a thick playing card, so it can be held flush against the back of a phone even while in use. It has a cable built in that works for both iPhones and Android devices. Best of all, it's frequently available with "100 percent cashback rewards," which means you fill out a form online after you buy it and the purchase price is refunded back to your PayPal account.



2500mAh Wallet Sized USB External Battery

two lenses, some Velcro, and a magnet) at a developer conference. The manufacturing specs were released for free so anyone could make a similar viewer. Cardboard v2, with support for phones up to six inches, came out this year.

You slip an Android phone or iPhone into the cardboard goggles, hold them up to your eyes, and proceed to giggle about the virtual world you're now in. The quality of viewers varies, but there's a list of ones certified to work with Cardboard software at google.com/cardboard. The UC 2.0+ at unofficialcardboard.com looks good for \$23 shipped.

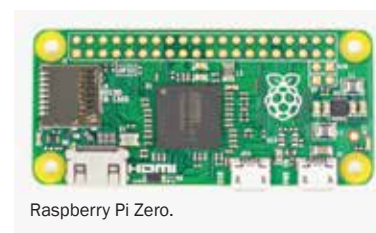
Raspberry Pi Zero

No, it's not a new diet drink. Raspberry Pi has been making tiny customizable computer boards since 2012, and the Zero was announced on Thanksgiving Day. It's great for kids interested in learning to build and program, as well as adults who like to tinker.

More info and purchase links are at raspberrypi.org.

The first run of Raspberry Pi Zeros did sell out pretty quickly, because it cost \$5. It will probably be constrained for a while, so don't pin your hopes on getting one — but on the other hand, you could be a hero if you do manage to snag one. If you're in a Barnes & Noble or Micro Center this month, keep your eye out for an issue of MagPi on the magazine rack with a Raspberry Pi Zero included on the cover.

Yes, seriously, a computer attached to a print publication as a free gift. No hoverboards, but people, 2015 is still pretty cray.



Raspberry Pi Zero.

VR Glasses

Remember when virtual reality was totally going to take over? In, like, 1993? Those heady days are back, only we actually have the technology to do it now. It's humbler than the '90s hype, but it's also much less costly.

Google unveiled its Cardboard system in 2014 as a way to adapt any smartphone into a VR viewer. It gave away a bunch of viewers made of, yes, cardboard (and also



VR Glasses



LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Go for a jolly run or walk through New Hampshire Motor Speedway's (1122 NH-106, Loudon) Gift of Lights display at the Yule Light Up The Night event on Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The course covers 2.25 miles of the 3-mile holiday drive-thru, which contains 60 holiday scenes and 400 light displays. Participants are encouraged to wear their most festive holiday attire. Online registration costs \$25 for adults, \$15 for youth ages 4 to 11 and free for children age 3 and under.

Onsite race day registration will be available from 3 to 4:15 p.m. and costs \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth. Visit millenniumrunning.com/lights.

Fraser and Canadian Balsam fir trees from Nova Scotia. Beginning Thurs., Dec. 3, and continuing every day until trees are sold out. Weekdays 4 to 8 p.m., Sat., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Shaw's parking lot DW Hwy., Merrimack. Visit merrimackrotary.org.

American Legion, 251 Maple St., Manchester. \$5 admission fee with cash prizes and gift certificates paid each day. For more information, contact Ray Valliere Sr., league director, at 218-9211.

Wellness

• ELLIOT SENIOR HEALTH CENTER Offers senior-specific care and features a fitness center. 138 Webster St., Manchester. See 663-7030, elliiohospital.org/web-site/senior_health_center.php. Offering fitness classes for the special needs of seniors and clinics and classes on issues such as fall prevention, healthy heart and lungs, back pain and care, and stress management. The Senior Health Center also features a computer learning center, blood pressure clinics, diabetes education and more.

• HEALTHY SENIOR CLINIC Offers regular check-ups to help seniors monitor blood pressure, blood sugar, and pulse rate. Medication review and nutrition and exercise information also available. St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Call to schedule appointment. Call 595-3722.

• MEDICARE ASSISTANCE Medicare counseling provided by Servicelink at Nashua Senior Center (598-4709). Help is available for questions about Medicare, Medicare supplemental insurance and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, 8 Prospect St., Nashua. Free. Must make appointment.

• WALK-IN WEDNESDAY CLINIC Concord Regional VNA team member will meet to discuss your concerns individually. Heights Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road, Concord. Free program offered first-come, first-served. Call 224-4093 ext. 5815 for more. See also 225-8690, concord-parksandrec.com.

Sports & Recreation

Ice Skating

• ICE SKATING LESSONS Hosted by Concord Parks and Rec for ages 4 to adult, basic beginner to intermediate levels offered. Session 2 Jan. 3 to Feb. 7. Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road, Concord. Cost is \$79 for residents for 6 week session. Offers Muay Thai, self defense, boxing, mixed martial arts, and kickboxing for adults and children. Kid's program includes martial arts and mixed martial arts classes. 3 N. Main St., Concord. See online application page to register. Call 223-0300. Visit averillsmartialarts.com.

Runs/walks/races

• JINGLE BELL HALF MARATHON Third annual holiday run. Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m. 85 Country Club Drive, Atkinson. Cost is \$60 to \$80. Visit jinglebellhalf.com. Email mike@locorunning.com.

• YULE LIGHT UP THE NIGHT A 2.25-mile run through the Gift of Lights display. Sun., Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m. New Hampshire Motor Speedway, 1122 Route 106, Loudon. Costs \$25 to \$30 (\$15 to \$20 for children 11 and under). Register at millenniumrunning.com/lights.

Volunteer

Events

• KEEP CONCORD WARM Help Concord Public Library share the warmth this winter. Donate new or newly-handmade hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks at the library. No coats. All items will be given to the Concord Homeless Resource Center. Accepting through 15. Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. Concord. Call 230-3682.

• VOLUNTEERS FOR RESEARCH STUDY Seeking African American woman with HIV age 25 or older to participate in a 35 minute research study. You must be HIV positive and willing to talk about your experiences. You will receive \$35 compensation. Please contact Bobby at 978-747-6624.

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What to do when they stop making the car you love?



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
OK, I'm an old geezer.

A relic.

An antique.

And whatever else describes "mature individuals."

I still love my Mercury Grand

Marquis. But, just like me, they don't make them anymore.

I love being able to take everything I own when I go on vacation, including the kitchen sink.

I like the rear-wheel drive, big V-8, comfortable ride, getting 26-28 mpg highway, the feel of being safe and protected by lots of steel, and being able to have every accessory available, and still pay less than \$40,000 for the ride. I realize they failed to change the body style for several decades, so the entire line went dormant.

But what is available now that will replace my Mercury when I get ready to give up the one I have now?

Great column! I get you guys every

week in the paper, and look forward to your comments and advice. — Charles

Dormant? It went "dinosaurial."

Unfortunately, the Grand Marquis became badly outdated in many ways, and Ford Motor Company didn't see enough future sales to justify the investment in a redesign. Many of your fellow geezers, not to mention all of New York City's taxi drivers, join you in your grief, Charles.

There's nothing exactly like it out there now. But I'll make a few suggestions, and you can shop around and see what you like.

First, since the Grand Marquis bit the dust, I've noticed that a lot of taxi drivers have switched to Toyota Camry Hybrids. It's got the opposite of a large V-8: It has a four-cylinder engine, a battery pack and a supplemental electric motor.

But it's got good power (200 hp), it's a full-size car, it's comfortable and safe, and it's got room for a kitchen sink or two. And by the way, it gets about 40 miles to the gallon, in town and on the highway.

If that's not quite big enough, you could step up to the Toyota Avalon, which is a little plusher and a little big-

ger. It's also available with a 40-mpg hybrid drivetrain.

Another option would be a Chrysler 300. That's a rear-wheel-drive, American (actually, part German) sedan that you can still get with a big V-8 (you can get it with all-wheel drive, too, if you want to). It's got that lightweight steering feel that you love in your Grand Marquis, and it's fairly roomy.

The biggest downside is that the visibility is pretty bad. It has tall sides and narrow windows, and, after driving your Grand Marquis, you might feel like you're trying to see out of a bathtub in the 300. But try it and see.

Finally, you might try one of Ford Motor Company's full-size replacements for the Grand Marquis. Perhaps something like the Lincoln MKS, which is based on the Ford Fusion but will positively pamper your geezer butt, Charles.

Let us know what you decide, and how you like it.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2001 Ford E250 van with a 5.4-liter motor. When you step on the gas and then let your foot off the pedal, the throttle drops very slowly. I've replaced

the EGR, the throttle position sensor and the idle air-control valve, and I've cleaned the throttle body. I don't know what's wrong or how to fix it. Can you help? — Skip

I don't think so, Skip. You've tried most of the things I would have suggested.

Let's assume you did all of that stuff correctly, and that you didn't notice any scoring or wear and tear inside the throttle body that could cause the butterfly valve to get hung up. The next thing I'd look for would be something even more simple that got overlooked, like a sticky throttle cable.

You can check that by disconnecting the throttle cable from the throttle itself, and then operating the throttle by hand with the engine cover off.

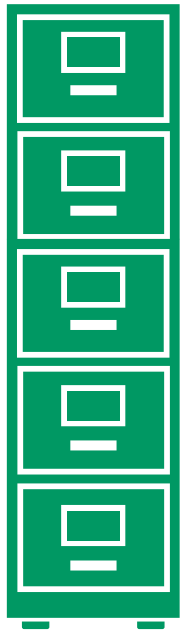
If the van returns to idle normally without the throttle cable connected, then you know it's the cable, and you can replace it.

If it's not that, the next thing I would hope for is a good, old-fashioned engine fire.

You'd be surprised how many mechanical problems an engine fire can solve, Skip. Good luck.

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ON THE JOB

ROBERT FREITAS

INVESTIGATOR

Robert Freitas is a retired Manchester detective who now works as an investigator with the New Hampshire Department of Justice in the Medicaid Fraud division and previously worked in the Cold Case unit.

Q: *Explain what your current job is.*

I'm currently assigned as a criminal investigator to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Attorney General's Office. Each state has their own Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and that consists of attorneys and investigators. ... When we're talking about Medicaid fraud, we're talking about providers — doctors who may bill fraudulently for Medicaid services. We also look at instances of patient neglect and abuse at Medicaid facilities — facilities that accept Medicaid funds are under our jurisdiction. We also look at drug diversion cases.

How long have you worked there?

I have been assigned to Medicaid fraud for a little over a year and a half now. Prior to that I was the investigator with the Cold Case unit, which dealt with unresolved homicides, missing persons and suspicious death cases.

How did you get interested in this field?

Apart from my whole 24-year career at Manchester PD, where I did a whole cycle of police-related duties ... I spent a majority of my time within the investigative unit at MPD. ... It's something in your blood and the more you do it, the better you become at it.

What kind of education or training did you need for this job?

In the state of New Hampshire, to become



Robert Freitas

a police officer, all you need is a high school diploma or a GED. The nice thing about this particular job is, depending on what agency you go to, like Manchester, they will provide in-house training for you, which consists of 10 or 12 weeks. ...

You're assigned to a field training officer to kind of learn through them. They evaluate your skills and as life goes on ... a lot of it is on-the-job training.

How did you find your current job?

Life's all about timing sometimes. It's all about being in the right place at the right time. At the time that I had really contemplated retirement from the Manchester PD, the Cold Case contractor position had become available and I interviewed for it. ... It was just reading the newspaper at the right time and seeing the classified ad.

What's the best piece of work-related advice anyone's ever given you?

As far as police work is concerned, I think you have to be a good listener. I think you have to listen to people to hear what they're really saying. I know that a lot of times we become kind of wrapped up in a job that is

somewhat routine. ... But realistically, people that you deal with are all individuals and they have individual problems and concerns. I think if you take the time to listen to what those are, you get a lot more cooperation from people.

What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

As a new police officer, when people start, everyone's got this perception of [how they should act], whether it's stuff people watch on TV, this is how a cop should act, this is how a cop shouldn't act. You've got to find your own way and the only way to find your own way is to do things.

What is your typical at-work uniform?

Plain clothes. When I say plain clothes, [I mean] just a shirt, tie, a suit. Dress clothes. No play clothes.

What was the first job you ever had?

The first job I ever had was I worked at Talbott's Market in Manchester. I was probably 14. It was a small little market down the street from my house. Basically, I was there [from] 6 to 9 stocking the beer cooler.

— Ryan Lessard 🍷

Five favorites

Favorite Book: *Notes on a Killing* by Kevin Flynn

Favorite Movie: *The Great Escape*

Favorite Musician: Eric Johnson

Favorite Food: Corned beef and cabbage

Favorite Thing about NH: The four seasons

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News from the local food scene

By Allie Ginwala
food@hippopress.com

FOOD

Palatable presents

Great gift ideas for your favorite foodies

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Have an aspiring chef in the family or a friend who treats sampling local beers like a part-time job? Surprise them with a gift that suits their passion perfectly with these Instagram-worthy gift ideas from local food, coffee, liquor and beer experts.

Culinary inspiration

For Pamela Sullivan, owner of The Kitchen Place in Salem (The Mall at Rockingham Park, 99 Rockingham Park Blvd., 894-4812, thekitchenplace.com) and Marlboro, Mass., one thing she's noticed of her customers lately is that they're looking to up their game when it comes to home entertaining.

Wine and cheese serving platters and slate boards suit one who wants to have a nice presentation without having to explain every dish they're serving — just write the dish details in chalk and let the guests enjoy.

Keep the presentation going with hot barware items like **cocktail shakers, muddlers** (great for mojito lovers) and **Moscow Mule mugs** or even a **chill rod** for wine.

"It's very long and narrow and you freeze it and before you serve the wine you put that in it and it keeps it chilled," she said.

The demand for healthy living appliances continues on this season with items like **immersion blenders, spiralizers** and the "Cadillac of all blenders," the **Vitamix**.

"We sell a lot of food scales too," she said. "It's not just for converting, it's more on the health thing."

If you're looking to get a little more per-



Colorfully designed travel mugs from A&E. Courtesy photo.

sonal, take a look at the cooking style of your giftee. For example, Sullivan likes to add to her brother-in-law's cutlery collection each year, perhaps with a utility chopper that's great for both vegetables and meat. If the person likes to stand apart, go for specialty items or brands to act as the centerpiece of their kitchenware.

"That's what people want," Sullivan said. "They want the wow factor."

The local ex-beer-ience

With the continued rise of micro and nano breweries across the state, Granite State Brewers Association president and White Birch Brewing founder and brewer Bill Herlicka suggested giving the gift of a beer experience.

"Beer is as much the enjoyment of the product as it is for many people the adventure," he said.

Granite State Growler Tours provides the transportation to different brewery tours and tastings at locations on the seacoast like Throwback Brewery, Sea Hagg Distillery, Garrison City Beerworks and North Country Hard Cider. Guests enjoy snacks and a chance to talk to the brewers or distillers — plus a cooler to keep your growlers full (check out nhbeerbus.com for gift certificate details).

For those who want a self-guided experience, Herlicka suggested giving the **NH Beer Trail tour card** with a gift certificate to one of the participating breweries.

"Whether a place is a growler-only nano-brewery or [has] a shop that may be bigger, up to Smuttynose where they have a restaurant, give someone a gift certificate to that place [and] that gives them a reason to get

out there and see the breweries," he said.

You can also help **craft an experience** that combines interests. If the beer lover in your life is also a history buff, get them a gift certificate to Canterbury Aleworks and passes to Canterbury Shaker Village. For beer-loving foodies, opt for 7th Settlement in Dover or Martha's Exchange in Nashua.

Know someone who wants to try their hand at brewing beer? Get them a **class** at IncrediBREW in Nashua or visit one of the homebrew shops in the state to pick up a **starter kit**. Check out Kettle to Keg in Pembroke, Jasper's Homebrew & Wine-making in Nashua and A&G Homebrew Supply in Portsmouth.

Caffeinated Christmas

For the friend who equates drinking coffee with breathing oxygen, picking the perfect gift may be as simple as getting them a **gift box of specialty coffee**. This year Emeran Langmaid, owner of A&E Coffee Roastery & Tea, is putting together New Hampshire-centric gift boxes with three bags of coffee.

"It has all three categories for any kind of coffee drinker," she said. "You open it up, it has a beautiful tissue paper ... so grab it and go and it's ready to give."

The \$45 box features New Hampshire Morning breakfast blend, A&E house blend and Monadnock bold. She said they'll also have certain select coffees and special reserve gift sets with Kona, Norma Lara's coffee from Honduras and an exclusive geisha, which comes from a specific type of coffee tree.

"We try to bring in coffees that are unique and special and really elevate 42 ▶

Looking for more food and drink fun? Check out **Hippo Scout**, available via the Apple App Store, Google Play and hipposcout.com.

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◀40 the experience,” she said. “[It would] really be a fantastic gift for someone who really enjoys coffee because it’s not readily available and it’s special.”

Lately Langmaid has seen a trend in customers using their own glass or stainless steel **travel mugs**. They sell the mugs from \$13 to \$25 with designs like lotus flowers, mountain landscapes and paisley peacocks. The newest items on their shelf are **Keep Cups** with the A&E logo on them, in glass and plastic.

If you’re buying for an aspiring home brewer, Langmaid said first to make sure they have a **water kettle** and a **scale**, as those two things are essential for any manual brew method. Currently popular are **ceramic pour overs**, **Chemex** and **Kalita** for manual pour over methods, an item any coffee connoisseur should have.

In the spirit of wine

Nothing says celebration more than bubbles, according to NHLC wine marketing specialist Nicole Brassard-Jordan, which is why **prosecco** and **Champagne** make lovely gifts for the wine connoisseur in your life.

If you’re looking to bring a bottle of wine as a hostess gift, think of varietals that will pair well with holiday meals like cabernet and zinfandel and the heavier reds.

Make it more of a package deal by gifting **glasses** along with the bottle.

“For me as a wine drinker, a glass is almighty important,” Brassard-Jordan said. “There really is a difference having wine in a real wine glass.”

Selecting the right bottle for a wine enthusiast may be a daunting task, so she suggested another gift route of picking up **wine accessories** like an aerator, decanter or carafe.

If spirits are more the style of your giftee, Mark Roy, NHLC spirits specialist, said that this time of year it’s all about the **cordials** and **brown spirits**.

“Anything whiskey-related, single-malt scotch, bourbons, those are really good,” he said. “We do have gift packs we put out there specifically for the holiday period.”

Both Jameson and Glenfiddich have trilogies and Maker’s Mark has a twin pack.

“They can get products they can’t get any other time of year,” he said.

Roy said the big trend in spirits accessories right now is an **ice ball maker** that produces a spherical piece of ice to more effectively chill your drink. Another option is to eliminate ice altogether and get a **whiskey stone**. A non-porous piece of soapstone, it chills the liquor without diluting it or affecting the taste. 🍷

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• **SILENT AUCTION & DINNER FOR CHARITY**
Proceeds benefit the Hudson Food Pantry. Thurs., Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. The White Birch Banquet Hall, 222 Central St., Hudson. Tickets cost \$25. See hudsonchamber.com.

• **THE MORE THE MERRIER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**
Enjoy hors d'oeuvres,

dinner and dancing. Entertainment from DJ Tommy Demers. Fri., Dec. 11, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Brookstone Park, 14 Route 111, Derry. Cost is \$59 per person. To reserve a table call 328-9255. See brookstone-park.com.

• **HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES**
At Pontine's New England Christmas, featuring original stagings of seasonal stories by three New England authors. A dozen community members will bake treats to share with the audience during intermission. Fri., Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Pontine's West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Tickets for the show cost

\$24. See pontine.org.

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION**
See the houses in the children's room until the gingerbread party and prize ceremony on Mon., Dec. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson. See rogerslibrary.org.

• **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY**
25th annual contest, part of Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth. See the houses daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Thurs., Dec. 24. Extended hours Fridays and Saturdays (until 8 p.m.). Discover Portsmouth, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth. Exhibit is free and open to the public. See portsmouthhistory.org or vintagechristmasnh.org.

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Feasting on tradition

Enjoy seven fishes this season



A group gets ready to enjoy La Festa Dei Sette Pesci at Pasquale's. Courtesy photo.

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

For many who grew up in an Italian family, enjoying a dinner full of fish on Christmas Eve is a holiday must. Keep the tradition going — or start a new one — by celebrating at three local restaurants hosting Feast of the Seven Fishes (or Festa Dei Sette Pesci) special dinners this year, like Campo Enoteca in downtown Manchester, offering five seatings for its second annual dinner.

Edward Aloise, chef and co-owner of Campo Enoteca and Republic, said that depending on where the feast is celebrated, the types of dishes prepared can change.

"It's more of a culture thing, depending on where in Italy you go. The menu is very elastic," he said. "You might have less than seven fishes, but seven different preparations."

Growing up, Aloise's family made two or three fishes in four or five different ways, but at Campo he said they're sticklers and will serve seven different fishes. This year's new menu will include salt cod, mussels, clams

and squid, all planned around what's seasonally and locally available.

"The way it's gonna be right now is seven different fishes and five courses," he said. "Everybody will be pleasantly full — nobody will roll off their table moaning like [on] Thanksgiving."

Pasquale Celone, chef and owner of Pasquale's Ristorante in Candia, has served the same dishes for his Festa Dei Sette Pesci for many years. To add an air of elegance to the traditional four-course meal, each dish will be paired with a wine from Campania, the region of Italy Celone is from.

Celone likes to stick with the traditional dishes for the annual feast, though this year he's branching out and serving two roasted whole fish — head, tail and all.

"Branching out is good, but stay with the traditional is always what I am all for because we don't want to change it too much," he said. "I'll branch off a bit with different ingredients, but more or less my menu has been the same."

The feast starts off with a variety of antipasti like fried anchovies and eel, seafood salad and cauliflower fritters, followed by the primo piatto pasta fagioli and angel hair pasta with littleneck clams. The secondo piatto features traditional dishes from the Amalfi Coast — oven-baked "swordfish in crazy water" with a special sauce and baccala, baked salt cod in a tomato-based sauce.

Adhering to the Italian tradition of "spending two hours with wine, cheese and nuts" after a meal, Celone will serve roasted chestnuts and regional cheeses before the sweet panettone bread for dessert.

Before each course, Celone will explain the tradition behind the dish and why he chose it and a representative from the wine company will speak about the origin of each wine, where it's made and why it works well with that particular dish.

"People get to experience the food and the wine from the region," he said. "It's always our job as a restaurant or small business to educate the public so they can go out and buy the product."

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Where: 143 Raymond Road, Candia

Cost: \$70; Call 483-5005 for reservations.

Visit: pasqualeincandia.com

Campo Enoteca

When: Thursday, Dec. 24, with seatings at 5, 5:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m.

Where: 969 Elm St., Manchester

Cost: \$45; call 625-0256 for reservations

Visit: campoenoteca.com

Tuscan Kitchen

When: Thursday, Dec. 24, from 3 to 8 p.m.

Where: 67 Main St., Salem

Cost: \$55 per person, \$80 with wine pairings; menu includes seafood mista and herb roasted swordfish

Visit: tuscanbrands.com

Portsmouth, according to a Seacoast Online article. Opened in 2012, Great Rhythm Brewing Company brews an amber ale, India pale ale and stout along with their most popular beer, Resonation Pale Ale. According to Seacoast Online, the Thorntons will ask the city's Board of Adjustment for a variance "to allow a brewery in a district where such a use is not allowed," in hopes of relocating their Great Rhythm Brewing Company business." Scott Thornton said the goal is to brew a batch of beer in the new building by the beginning of summer.

• **Liquor location debut:** The New

Hampshire Liquor Commission announced in a press release that its new Liquor and Wine Outlet in Brickyard Square in Epping opened on Monday, Dec. 7. "This new, highly visible Epping location will offer an expansive selection of nearly 3,000 wine and spirits varieties for customers to choose from," NHLHC Chairman Joseph Mollica said in the press release. "[It's] estimated to generate approximately \$6 million in gross sales during the first year alone." A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. featuring tastings. See liquorandwineoutlets.com for more. 🍷

• **GINGERBREAD VILLAGE**

See this year's game board themed gingerbread village. Visit the display during business hours or see it lit up through the window through the first week of Jan. Frederick's Pastries, 109 Route 101A, Amherst. See pastry.net.

• **Chef events/special meals**

• **ITALIAN CHRISTMAS DINNER** At The Quill Restaurant. Fri., Dec. 11, at 5 p.m., service begins at 6 p.m. The Quill, SNHU campus, 2500 N. River Road, Manchester. Cost is \$35. See snhu.edu.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Dine with the man in red over eggs, pancakes, bacon, muffins, hash browns and more. Sat., Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Slusser Senior Center, 164 Houston Drive, Hopkinton. Family rate is \$18, \$5 for ages 12 and up, \$3 ages 3 to 11. See hopkintonrec.com to register.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Kids enjoy crafts, games, holiday stories, a photos with Santa and breakfast. Sat., Dec. 12, from 8 to 11 a.m. Santa will be there from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., Chester. Tickets cost \$6. Maxi-

mum \$25 for a family of six. See chesterlibrary.com.

• **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Sun., Dec. 13, 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Red Blazer, 72 Manchester St., Concord. Offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Breakfast buffet is \$11.99 for adults, \$7.99 for children 4 to 10. See theredblazer.com.

• **HOLIDAY DINNERS AT THE WILLIAM PITT TAVERN**

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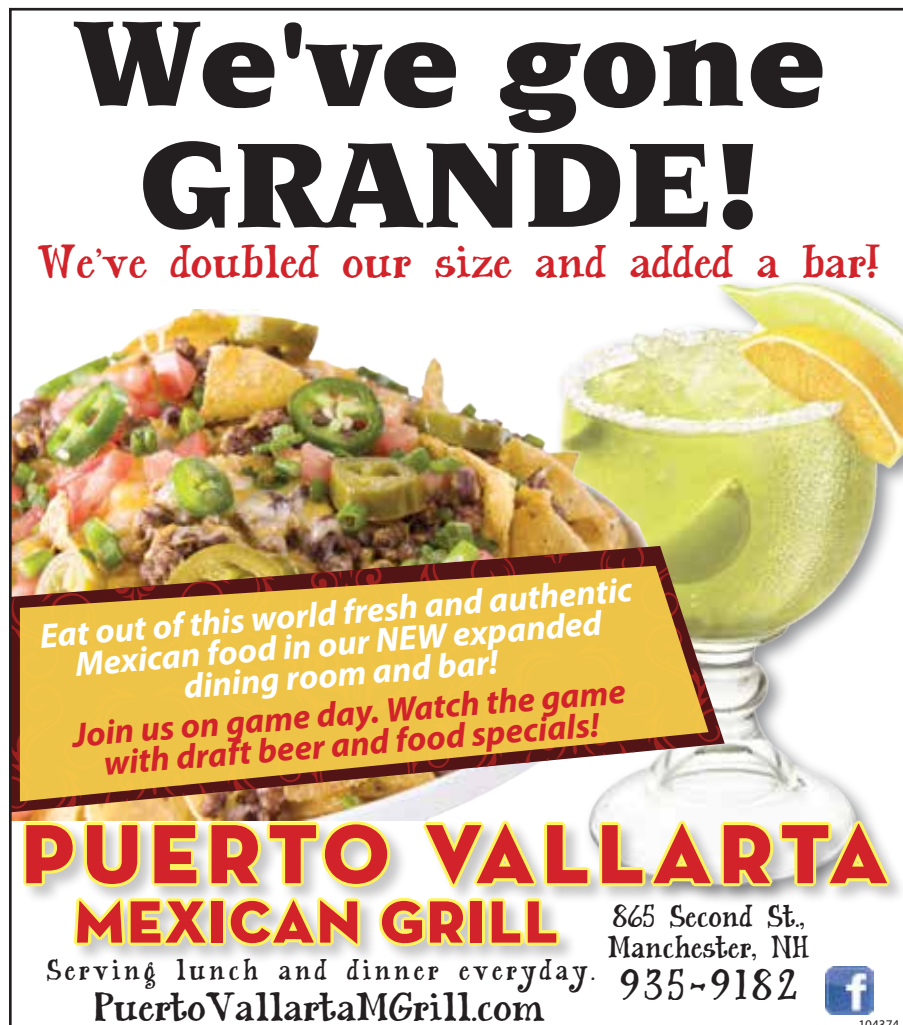
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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH **MARK KIMBALL**

Growing up working in his uncle's butcher shop after school, Mark Kimball knew early on that he wanted to be a butcher. Now the head cutter at Olde Tyme Butcher (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 669-3001, facebook.com/OldeTymeButcher), Kimball said what interests him the most about the profession is its creativity. His repertoire of unique items includes the bullet steak (game meat shaped like a bullet), honeymoon roasts, sweetheart steaks (a rib-eye, butterflied and opened in the shape of a heart, stuffed with spiced apple sausage stuffing or jalapeno blueberry cornbread stuffing) and New England sports-themed meats like Patriot's Chicken and Brady's Wings. Currently, Kimball is getting ready to bring that personal flair to his own shop, the North End Butcher, set to open in January.



What is your must-have kitchen item?

You're going to laugh. I'm not going to say a knife. I'm going say my vacuum tumbler. It's a pressurized tumbling machine for marinating meat. Basically that one item alone, if I put 50 pounds of meat in with a gallon of marinade, it's like a three-day marinade after 15 minutes of tumbling. So that gives you a big leg up on the competition.

What would you choose for your last meal?

Blueberry pancakes, a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream and a coffee [from] Capitol Diner in Lynn, Mass.

Favorite dish at a local restaurant?

New Happy Garden. I like their Chinese food a lot. I would have to say their moo goo gai pan.

What celebrity would you like to share a meal with?

Arnold Schwarzenegger.

What is the most out-of-the-ordinary meat you've ever eaten or prepared?

Pig intestine. Sadly, I ate it. ... It was smoked pig intestines, and it was absolutely disgusting. [But] I had cow tongue the other day, [and] it was delicious.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?

Shepherd's pie. [I've] got a big twist on it. I use ground chuck, beef stew meat, render down the beef stew meat with a little bit of celery stock until it just basically falls apart and then I do a little bit of English peas, creamed corn, then I do the mashed potatoes with cauliflower crushed inside of the mashed potatoes, a little bit of pesto mixed in with it and then I do a pie crust on top.

What is your favorite cut of meat?

Porterhouse short loin. You get the New York strip steak on one side, which is a really hearty, good grilling steak, and then you get the filet mignon, so basically it's the only steak in the world you can share.

— Allie Ginwala

Grillmaster meatloaf

From the kitchen of Mark Kimball

3½ pounds ground beef
2 eggs
1½ cups flavored breadcrumb

1 bottle Chubby's grillmaster sauce
1 small white onion, diced

Mix all ingredients together and place in pan, then bake at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes. Serve with mashed potato and vegetables.

um. Sat., Dec. 12, Sun., Dec. 13, Sat., Dec. 19, Sun., Dec. 20. Seatings at 4, 6 and 8 p.m. across from Pickwick's at the Banke, 43 Atkinson St., Portsmouth. Cost is \$65 per person, \$25 per child. For reservations, visit Pickwick's Mercantile (call 427-8671) or Pickwick's at The Banke.

• **THE FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES** Sun., Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. Pasquale's Ristorante, 143 Raymond Road, Candia. Cost is \$65 per person. See pasqualeincandia.com.

• **A DICKENS' OF A CHRIST-**

MAS Written by George Hosker-Bouley. Annual production features a three course dinner, live music and holiday songs. Mon., Dec. 14, through Thurs., Dec. 17. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show at 6 p.m. Old Salt Restaurant, 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton. \$39.99, includes dinner. Call The Old Salt (926-0330) for reservations. See underbellyparts.net.

Classes/workshops

• **ARTISAN BREADS I** Learn the basics of bread baking while making sweet Challah

bread, herb Ciabatta and cheesy Gruyere rolls from scratch. Fri., Dec. 11, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Finesse Pastries, 968 Elm St., Manchester. Cost is \$75 per class. Visit finessepastries.com.

• **COUPLES COOKING** Three hour class teaches how to create a meal from start to finish. Bring tupperware for leftovers. Event is BYOB. Fri., Dec. 11, and Sun., Dec. 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Culinary Playground, 16 Manning Street, Suite 105, Derry. Cost is \$155 per couple. Visit culinary-playground.com.

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FOOD

Trip for treats

Hit the road for a cookie tour

By Allie Ginwala
aginwala@hippopress.com

Nineteen years ago, a consortium of inns in the Mount Washington Valley was looking for a way to encourage guests to visit during the quiet December weekends. They came up with an inn-to-inn tour that culminated with a luncheon at the 1785 Inn, where each inn contributed a dish.

"There were 100 people that took part in that tour, but our meal didn't come together that well — it was more of a potluck than we wanted it to be," said Marti Mayne, who handles publicity for Country Inns in the White Mountains.

The next year they decided to focus on a food that could be served at each inn, and it "didn't take long for holiday cookies to come to the top of the idea pool," Mayne said.

This year's annual Mount Washington Valley Inn to Inn Holiday Cookie and Candy Tour is on Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Currier and Ives Cookie Tour, a separately run tour inspired by the Mount Washington Valley holiday tradition, will take place at inns and small businesses in the Monadnock region also on Saturday, Dec. 12.

"We've had little gift shops and art studios and a variety of places, not just inns," said Holly LeClair, marketing manager for the Inn at East Hill Farm, one of the stops on the Currier and Ives tour.

The self-guided tours allow guests to visit places they may have never been to enjoy a sweet treat and holiday decorations.

"The side benefit of the inn-to-inn cookie tour is getting great ideas from innkeep-



The Inn at East Hill Farm treats tour-goers to home-made cookies. Courtesy photo.

ers who are very talented at decorating," Mayne said.

She noted that for the inns in the Mount Washington Valley, guests can sample cookies and a beverage when they arrive (each inn will have coffee, hot chocolate, punch or another drink), then take a tour.

"The 1785 Inn, they have many common areas and have been written up in national magazines for the incredible decorating they do," she said. "You would spend some time going through the common areas, seeing some of the guest rooms and then enjoying the cookies."

In previous years, tour-goers on the Mount Washington Valley tour have been treated to truffles, fudge, peppermint bark and all manner of cookies made onsite.

Monadnock region guests may try mint truffle cookies, brownies, oatmeal cookies and molasses cookies. This year the Inn at East Hill Farm is making shortbread cookies dipped in chocolate.

Both tours are self-guided so guests can choose the order and number of stops they visit. It's also recommended that guests bring a cookie tin or tupperware along for the ride. While you'll typically get one treat at each stop — not to mention the recipe to try at home — the sweets can add up after the first few stops, so many people like to take them home to enjoy.

Both tours have guests coming from all over New England to see the Christmas-clad inns, though most travel from other parts of the state to sample and explore.

"It's a good turnout. It's nice ... to bring this many [people] to the state, to this area," LeClair said. 🍪

Cookie tours

Mount Washington Valley Inn to Inn Holiday Cookie and Candy Tour

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: 11 participating inns
Admission guaranteed with purchase of a participating inn lodging package. For day tickets only, call to see what's available the day of the tour. See countryinnsinthewhitemountains.com/holiday_cookie_tour.htm

Currier and Ives Cookie Tour

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: 16 participating Monadnock region locations
Tickets cost \$12, cash preferred. See currierandivescookie tour.com

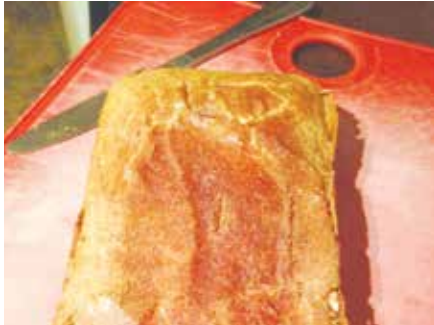
Snickerdoodle bread

Growing up, I was taught never to show up to a party empty-handed. As the holidays roll around, I take that lesson to heart and enjoy arriving with unexpected goodies, whether for a party or just a casual afternoon play date for the kids.

If my family and I are spending a night or a weekend away, I especially like to show up with food for breakfast. I've found hosts usually have lunch and dinner plans made before you arrive, but breakfast seems to fall by the wayside. Bread is one of my go-to traveling treats, and this snickerdoodle version is becoming a fast favorite.

It seems this season there is a snickerdoodle-flavored everything, from coffee to cookies. I've seen several recipes for snickerdoodle bread, but this one proved the most pantry-friendly, especially after I couldn't find the cinnamon chips some of the other recipes called for.

Featured on the Betty Crocker website (bettycrocker.com), this recipe uses all pantry ingredients with the exception of Greek yogurt. Some of the recipes I researched called for sour cream; either would provide the familiar tang associated with snickerdoodle cookies.



One of the great things about this particular recipe is that it makes two loaves of bread — perfect for freezing to keep on hand for unexpected holiday company or wrapping to take with you on an overnight trip.

When baking breads like this, I get to combine my love of savory and sweet. I typically put bread in the savory category, but the sensational cinnamon and sugar combination pushes this loaf on the sweetness scale.

The only ingredient I was hesitant to use was the Greek yogurt, as I don't like to eat it, so I worried it would flavor the bread too much. But it only adds a slight, hardly noticeable tang, and it keeps the bread moist.

I've baked two loaves from the full recipe, but I've also cut everything in half to make only one loaf on occasion, and all have turned out tasty. The cinnamon and sugar layer baked on the top of the bread adds an unexpected crunch, and the layers of cinnamon and sugar throughout add a punch of flavor to every bite.

— Lauren Mifsud

Snickerdoodle Bread

Courtesy of bettycrocker.com

- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 2 1/2 cups Gold Medal all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup Greek plain yogurt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease two

9" x 5" loaf pans with cooking spray. In a small bowl, mix 5 teaspoons of the cinnamon and 6 tablespoons of the sugar; set aside. In another bowl, mix flour, baking powder, salt and 1 teaspoon cinnamon; set aside. In a third bowl, beat butter, sugar and oil until combined. Beat in eggs one at a time, followed by vanilla and yogurt. Add flour mixture and stir just until combined. Pour one-sixth of the batter into each of the loaf pans; sprinkle each layer with one-sixth of the cinnamon-sugar mixture that was set aside. Repeat the layers twice, topping with any remaining cinnamon and sugar mixture. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

HOUSE DECORATING

Friends of the Goffstown Library will provide the houses and decorations. Sat., Dec. 12, at 11 a.m. Goffstown Public Library, 2 High St., Goffstown. See goffstownlibrary.com to register.

• HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Families and all ages are invited to make a graham-cracker house. Library provides graham crackers and frosting. Families are encouraged to contribute a bag of candy. Sat., Dec. 12, from

2 to 3:30 p.m. Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst. See amherstlibrary.org.

• **HOLIDAY HORS D'OEUVRES** Make cilantro chicken bites with red pepper jelly glaze, espresso-rubbed pork tenderloin crostini with Kahlua cream and more. Sat., Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chez Boucher, 32 Depot Sq., Hampton. Cost is \$99. See chez-boucher.com.

• **FEED THE FAMILY** Meal prep workshop with four meals,

five servings each. Bring a casserole dish, large tupperware and reusable bags to take food home. Sun., Dec. 13, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. The Culinary Playground, 16 Manning Street, Suite 105, Derry. Cost is \$135. Visit culinary-playground.com.

• **TRUFFLES** Make assorted truffles from scratch starting with ganaches then shaping and dipping. Wed., Dec. 16, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Finesse Pastries, 968 Elm St., Manchester. Cost is \$60 per class. Visit finessepastries.com.

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DRINK

The gift of drinking

What to give wine lovers

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

There are just about two weeks left before Christmas, and if you are anything like me, you haven't finished your shopping yet. If you have wine lovers on your list and aren't sure what to get them, I have some ideas for you. **Bottles of wine** are always welcomed, but I also like when my family and friends give me other wine-themed gifts. They range from **toppers** and other **accessories** to **décor** and **gift certificates to local wineries**.

If you are buying wine for someone, having some basic information about what they like can help guide your purchases. Store employees get these kinds of questions year-round, so they are always prepared to help. However, if you can answer some basic questions like "red or white," "dry or sweet" and "what is your budget," they can make an even better recommendation. Telling them about the gift receiver (age, gender, etc.) can also help when the wine is a gift.

Sometimes, if you are going to a holiday dinner party at someone's house or buying wine as a holiday swap gift, you might not know what someone likes specifically. But sometimes you will know that the person is a wine fan in general, and this helps the staff suggest a less common wine or a few different options.

A **custom wine gift basket** is a thoughtful way to give the gift of wine, glasses and snacks like crackers and cheese or chocolates. Many shops, like Angela's Pasta and Cheese in Manchester and Caring Gifts in Concord, can put together a basket for you based on your requests and budget.

A **gift certificate for wine classes** or **vouchers for wine tastings** are great gift ideas so a friend or family member can learn more and taste wines in the process. These classes are a great gift for anyone, from beginners to more seasoned wine lovers. Owner and sommelier Svetlana Yanushkevich teaches several classes at WineNot Boutique in Nashua and The Wine Steward in Hampstead. Her class offerings include "Be Your Own Sommelier," "Secrets of Italian Wine" and "Summer Wines, Cheese and Chocolate." Her "Wine 101" class is a great option for beginners. Dover Wine & Brew and Carla Snow, both based on the seacoast, also offer a variety of classes.

Many New Hampshire wineries offer **Living Social** and **Groupon** specials throughout the year, and these can be purchased as a gift. They may include a



Wine accessories and decor make great gifts.

tasting, a tour, glasses or a discount on wine purchases and are often very affordable. Plus, it is always fun to get a group of friends together and visit, as many wineries stay open year-round.

If there is a winery that you already know your recipient likes, their **wine club** may be an option. Many New Hampshire wineries, including Hermit Woods Winery in Sanbornton, Fulchino Vineyard in Hollis and Sap House Meadery in Center Ossipee, are offering wine club options. This is a great way to give the gift of wine, support a local business and maybe get the person something extra special!

There are many wine accessories out there. Some are more general, like **stemless glasses**, **wine toppers** and **wine charms**, while others are geared to more serious wine enthusiasts. **Aerators**, **wine openers**, **decanters** and **limited edition or collectable wines** are great options for wine lovers. **Wine racks** and **cork holders** are two other options that come in a variety of shapes and sizes. I have received both as gifts and really like them. Plus, they are both very useful. Many wineries sell unique gifts as well, so pairing one with a bottle of wine can make for a special gift.

Wine décor can be a nice gift for a wine enthusiast who has a lot of wine accessories, or for a time when you're unsure of his or her wine preferences. I have several pieces around my apartment and they aren't just in the kitchen. I also have some unique coasters that are wine-themed and more fun than plain old ones.

If all else fails, just remember it is the thought that counts. Noticing what kind of wine a friend or family member likes or getting a set of wine charms in their favorite color or theme shows attention to detail and thoughtfulness. Happy shopping. 🍷

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- Randall Bramblett, *Devil Music* **B**
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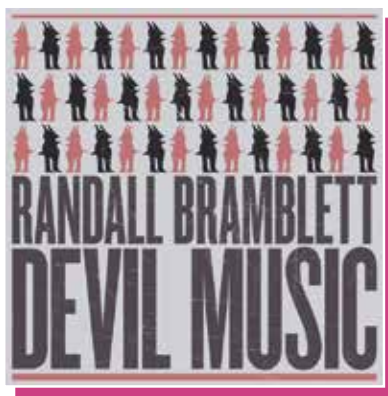
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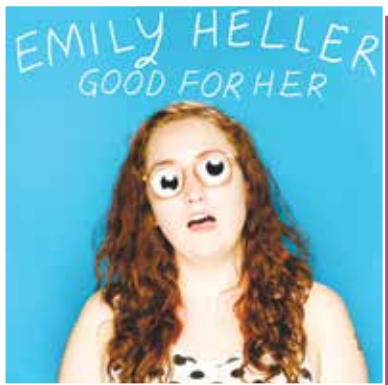
Randall Bramblett, *Devil Music* (New West Records)



This Georgia keyboardist may only possess a billionth of Clapton's name recognition, but his session work is well-known to the top echelon of blues artists, from Bonnie Raitt to Gregg Allman and back again. His work as a studio fixture has naturally helped him collect a bunch of high-profile friends — Mark Knopfler and Derek Trucks made contributions to this record — thus there's a certain amount of cred in play here, not that cred on its own has ever created a hit single, save for people like Eddie Murphy or The Singing Nun. This, his 11th

proper solo LP, is dank and ramblingly sensual, par for the course, but if anything hampers the product it's Bramblett's plain-vanilla, uneventful singing. Personally lacking the sad, broken background of Howlin' Wolf (conceptually, the album explores the incident in which Wolf's mom banned her son from her household for playing "devil music"), Bramblett has to rely perhaps a bit too much on cred, that is unless you're a blues wonk to begin with, and this discussion isn't meant for you anyway. That being said, I really liked that a good amount of sampling was used, keeping it from being a cookie-cutter pandering to Billboard's soccer-parent blues-pop charts. Admirable if a bit low-energy. **B** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Emily Heller, *Good For Her* (Kill Rock Stars Records)



On her debut album, 29-year-old San Fran-born comedienne Heller parlays her non-hotness and not-yet-famous status (her most notable resumé bullet thus far is her supporting role on the TBS comedy series *Ground Floor*) into an act that reveals her inner mental Roomba as she spouts quirky thoughts about bumping into such obstacles as hot women, her own geekiness and the miseries of being single. Recorded at a Brooklyn club last year, the best bit on the record covers her "inner radio DJ who doesn't take requests," a routine reminiscent of Doug Stanhope's complaining about his brain not being able to shut up when she spouts "comin' up next, we've got a full hour of just the first verse of 'Mambo No. 5'!" An unabashed '90s kid, Heller has thought long and hard about hip-hop, enough that she tries to make excuses for its lyrically misogynistic past in a particularly funny essay. Other notable bits cover overdue doctor visits and the bright side of *I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant*. **A-**

— *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Way back in the 1990s, **Monica** was an R&B diva who mattered, but then she started making babies and settling for a reality TV "career" pretending to be Cee Lo's "assistant" on *The Voice* when he was pretending to be a "musician coach," even though Monica could "music coach" circles around Gnarl's. But who cares, her last album, 2011's *New Life*, got a few golf-claps from corporate-enslaved writers, while the rest of the music-writin' world pointed out that it was basically worthless and cheesy. Will her new album, *Code Red*, receive golf-claps and mild insults? Probably, but let's see for ourselves, because it wouldn't be fair to expect mediocrity from someone whose last eight musical years have been spent in the service of mediocrity. I mean, maybe it's one of those comeback things. Missy Elliott, Timbaland and Akon helped out on this album, which is sort of like if Robert Wagner, William Shatner and Kathy Griffin showed up to help roast Betty White on Comedy Central. Even Lil Wayne is here, helping her out on the song "Just Right for Me," a boring but enthusiastic mishmash of random, predictable trap stuff, sparkle-bling and ebullient street-corner sentiments. "Mediocre" it is — way to go!

- I haven't followed **Cage the Elephant** since 2011, so I'm wondering if they've become interesting, or at least capable of making a neo-garage song that held my attention for a world-record 15 seconds. Produced by Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys, their new LP is *Tell Me I'm Pretty*, the first single being "Mess Around," a neo-garage-surf tune. Iggy could write something more innovative than this while getting a dental filling. I know this generation has an automatic response to hearing the words "New Cage the Elephant album!" that's part social panic and part "not uninterested," but it's time for that to stop.

- **Sounds Like Harmony** is a dude from North Carolina who got semi-famous (I know, I hadn't heard of him either and don't expect to again, just go with it) by playing his nonsense on the livestream website YouNow. Right, since no one put a stop to this, he has a record coming out titled *Smile (I'm Not Okay)*. The title song showcases his talents, namely the ability to wear totally rebellious facial jewelry and write paint-by-numbers emo-boy-band detritus and then play it on an acoustic guitar. The lyric video has misspellings common to fourth-graders, such as using "your" when he means "you're." Hey, it was either this or drive a Pizza Hut delivery two-door; go easy on the kid.

- We'll end on a positive note, as prog-metal fellers **Baroness** release another color-named album, this time titled *Purple*. It will be awesome, because these albums always are. Seriously, they should just call their next album *Awesome* and save me the time. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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Dinosaur discoveries

SEE Science Center book illustrates fact vs. fiction

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com

Don't expect anatomical accuracy in Peter Noonan's illustrations for *We Thought You'd Never Ask!*, an educational dinosaur picture book published by Manchester's SEE Science Center this fall.

The book, hot off the press, is filled with whimsical depictions of goofy, bug-eyed dinos mowing the lawn, giving flowers to girlfriends, wearing striped scarves and performing in red jumpsuits with microphones. Their colors, shapes and sizes are all drawn from Noonan's imagination, and each page poses a question: Was every dinosaur bigger than an elephant? Did they sing songs? Was it cold, and did it snow?

The watercolor paintings, which started on a cartoon panel installation as part of the museum's 2013 dinosaur show, were meant to be silly and eye-catching. It wasn't important to book author and SEE Science Center design coordinator Adele Maurier that they be scientifically correct.

"Not every dinosaur has been discovered or will be discovered. Not every animal becomes a fossil," Maurier said during an interview at the museum. "I think it's a very big deal, for the kids and the adults, to read the book and know that not everything is known. In a year or two, we might know something totally different about the dinosaurs."

Sometimes illustrating from scratch was fun for Noonan. Sometimes it was frustrating. He was struck by how little we really know about the giants that lived approximately 62 million years before the first humanoids appeared on Earth.

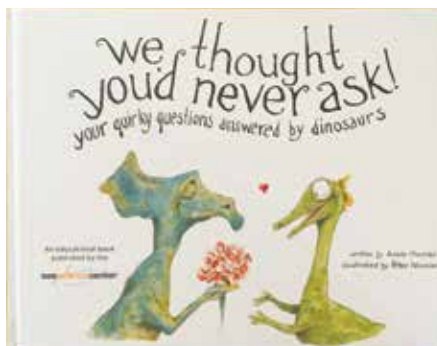
"You know, as an illustrator, I'd really want to get a specific thing down on paper — what it looked like, what it was doing. Did it really drink beer or not, that kind of stuff," Noonan joked. "But nobody really knows!"

The truth in the book comes in the text, the answers of these quirky questions carefully researched by Maurier. The research inspired her, and when she first envisioned the cartoon installation, she thought it might help kids connect with the information and teach them the lesser-known facts about dinosaurs — that some had feathers, that some were as small as chickens, and that the first birds lived at the same time as the last land dinosaurs.

The idea was to make it accessible to young kids especially.

She framed the information as an answer to a question a kid might ask. Did all the dinosaurs go extinct when the asteroid hit Mexico? Did they travel? Were they colorful? Did they mow the lawn?

"The first thing that surprised me was the



grass. It's hard to imagine a world without grass. The plants they had were very different from the ones we see today. Some of them we would recognize today — different kinds of pine, things like that — but you know, just to really think about how different the world really was, and thinking about the science they're telling us is surprising," Maurier said.

Maurier and museum staff liked Noonan's images right away. They decided to incorporate them in the 2015 exhibition as well, on view Oct. 10 through Jan. 17, and it only made sense to make a picture book of them too. Hippo copy editor Lisa Parsons helped edit, and Maurier and Noonan took the time determining the right style and typography.

"We wanted to create something to share, that people could bring home with them," Maurier said. "SEE is always trying to find new and creative ways to do informal learning. We always want people to continue their experience when they go home."

This is the museum's first education book, and it's available at the museum and online. Noonan said it helped him get in touch with his inner child, and Maurier hopes the show and the book reach out to even the youngest kids with little interest in science.

The dinosaur exhibit is always one of the best-attended shows and brings in a new generation of learners.

"Dinosaurs are so big. You've never seen anything like it. It's almost hard to fathom, but there's this strong scientific evidence for it, so you know it's true....," Maurier said. "We think of dinosaurs as the gateway to science learning. It's easily accessible to everybody. Even young kids are fascinated by dinosaurs. It might be first time they see the SEE Science Center, but hopefully it inspires them to continue learning."

Meet the authors

Author and illustrator will be at the Intown Manchester Downtown Holiday Market

Where: Brady Sullivan Plaza, 1000 Elm St., Manchester

When: Thursday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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Readers' choice

Gift ideas for all kinds of book lovers

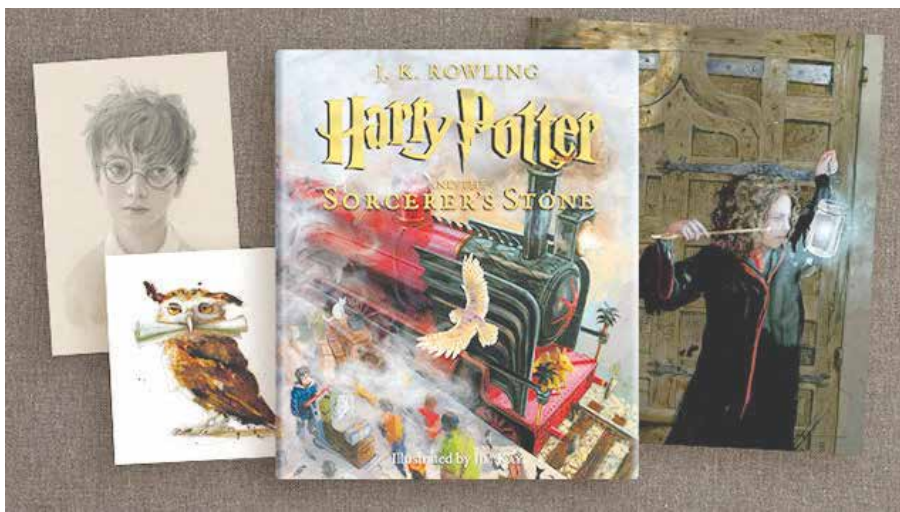
For kids

I have three nephews who love animals more than anything, and this year I'll be giving them ***Grandmother Fish: a child's first book of evolution*** by Jonathan Tweet, illustrated by Karen Lewis. Grandmother Fish explains the process of evolution in language simple enough for a preschooler with lovely, colorful illustrations of many stages of the evolutionary tree that led to humankind. The story concludes with a few pages of more detailed scientific information on evolution for parents and older siblings. — *Marita Klements, Reference Librarian, Nashua Public Library*

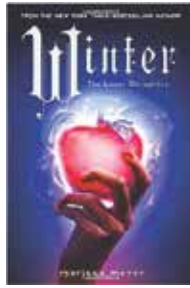
The three girls in my house are ages 7 and 8, and they've all asked for the new Dork Diaries book, ***Dork Diaries 10: Tales from a Not-So-Perfect Pet Sitter***, by Rachel Renee Russell, as well as ***Ever After High: Once Upon a Pet: A Collection of Little Pet Stories*** by Suzanne Selfors (the newest book in that series, ***Fairy's Got Talent***, comes out Dec. 15). All three girls like the easyish-to-read chapter book format and the stories about the lives of school-aged girls (some of which are still, thankfully, a little above their heads). My 10-year-old son is still liking *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and the latest one is ***Old School***. I might also get him the new ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: Illustrated Edition***, which seems to be such a hot gift idea that it's currently out of stock on Amazon. — *Meghan Siegler, Hippo managing editor*

For young adults

The new so-weird-it's-good series is ***The Lunar Chronicles*** by Marissa Meyer, which takes a futuristic look at classical fairy tales like *Cinderella*, *Snow White*,

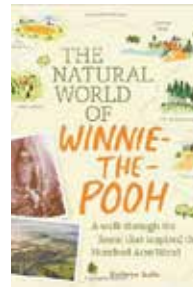


Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: Illustrated Edition.



in the series, *Winter*, was released in early November. The series is not incredibly deep and is sometimes goofy, but I found the audiobook easy to follow and super entertaining while driving and working out. — *Kelly Sennott, Hippo books reporter*

For nature lovers



Sometimes picture books are not just for kids. Using close-up photography, ***Into the Nest*** by Marie Read and Laura Erickson is a stunning book that takes a look at the family lives of more than 50 birds. From courting, to nest building, to the laying of eggs, the family lives of birds are fully documented until those little chicks leave the nest. Perfect for anyone who appreciate birds. — *New Hampshire writer and blogger Wendy Thomas (Lessons Learned from the Flock, simplethriftpress.wordpress.com)*

A great gift for families, nature lovers, or lovers of literature this year is ***The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk Through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood*** by Kathryn Aalto. In writing the Winnie-the-Pooh stories and poems author A. A. Milne was inspired by Ashdown Forest, a free public access

Rapunzel and *Little Red Riding Hood*. The books star a cast of female protagonists, led by a cyborg Cinderella, who must defeat Queen Levana, who rules over the moon and wants Earth next. The last

area in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Sussex, England. Aalto's book is a guide to the wildlife of the Ashdown Forest, as well as its association with Milne's life and his greatest literary creation. — *Marita Klements*

For history buffs

If someone were to ask me what book I want for Christmas this year, I'd pick ***SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*** by Mary Beard. Any history buff has heard of the founding of the Roman Empire, by the twins Romulus and Remus, and there are innumerable theories about the fall of the Roman Empire, but what happened in between? Mary Beard focuses on the rise of Rome. Unique in all history for the size and might of their empire, how did they get there? — *Marita Klements*

For runners

For your friend or family member who's a runner, get ***Born to Run*** (Knopf, May 2009) by Christopher McDougall. For this book, the journalist tracked down and wrote about a tribe of the world's greatest distance runners in Mexico, talking with scientists and running experts along the way. It's informative and true but moves like a narrative, starting with a foot injury and ending with a race in the Copper Canyons. It also stars ultra-marathon superstar (and recent Appalachian Trail record-setter) Scott Jurek. McDougall's no scientist, and some of the research is controversial, but it gives you new insight to the sport and makes you want to, yes, go out for a run. — *Kelly Sennott*

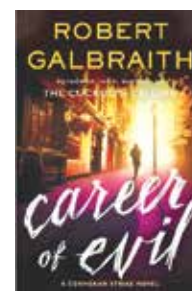
For foodies

Have someone who is a passionate localvore? ***The Food Activist Handbook*** (2015) by Ali Berlow is filled with tools and solu-

tions to help you energize and organize your local food system in order to create better access to healthy food for everyone. It has enough tips and concrete steps for anyone to get started in making sure fresh food is available for all. — *Wendy Thomas*

Using artful photos, Amy Chaplin creates a cooking reference in two parts in ***At Home in the Whole Food Kitchen - Celebrating the Art of Eating Well***. Part 1 covers the basics, what you should have in your pantry and how to create recipes like simple green salad with Tangy hemp seed dressing. Part 2 goes into more complex vegan and vegetarian recipes like Curried Socca with Cilantro Coconut Chutney. Filled with tons of "how to" information, this is a book that you'll reference time and time again. — *Wendy Thomas*

For mystery fanatics



I wasn't a fan of J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*, but I do like her murder mystery books under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. This is another series I listened to in the car, courtesy of top-notch narrator Robert Glenister. The latest book, ***Career of Evil*** (Mulholland Books, Oct. 2015), concerns a Jack the Ripper-like case in which the protagonists, Detective Cormoran Strike and his assistant-turned-partner Robin Ellacott, are the would-be targets. Your best bet is to read the first two before this one; *The Cuckoo's Calling* (Mulholland Books, April 2013) was OK, but my favorite was *The Silkworm* (Mulholland Books, April 2014), which centers around a couple of arrogant authors and a tainted publishing industry. Fair warning: not for people who can't handle graphic content. — *Kelly Sennott*

For science geeks



Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs by Lisa Randall is a thorough but fun review of the latest knowledge and current understanding of the birth, growth and structure of the universe. Recommended for older science geeks who want to learn about dark matter knots and other stuff Isaac Asimov never dreamed of. — *John Milton, Nashua Public Library*

Hippo's A-list gift guide

These books that were reviewed by Hippo reviewer Jennifer Graham in 2015 received a grade of A- or higher.

- The Tsar of Love and Techno*, Anthony Marra
- Furiously Happy*, Jenny Lawson
- How Bad Do You Want It?*, Matt Fitzgerald
- Massacre on the Merrimack*, Jay Atkinson
- The Heart Goes Last*, Margaret Atwood
- Did You Ever Have a Family*, Bill Clegg
- Skyfaring*, Mark Vanhoenacker
- Do No Harm*, Dr. Henry Marsh
- The Third Wife*, Lisa Jewell
- Bike Battles*, James Longhurst
- What Comes Next and How to Like It*, Abigail Thomas
- War on Morris*, Steve Israel

Book Report



• Attention, muggles:

Your favorite witches and wizards visit the Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m., via Stranger Than Fiction, a comedy group taking on J.K. Rowling's famous characters in an improv show, *Christmas at Hogwarts*. It takes place months after the author's brief epilogue from *Harry Potter*

and the *Deathly Hallows*, in which Harry Potter's son, Albus Severus, boards the train for the first time. The show will be a "typical improv show" in terms of adult content, and is not intended for a young audience, according to the event's Facebook page. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org. Tickets are \$10.

For some more kid-friendly Harry Potter fun, the Derry Public Library's (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) teen program hosts a number of events for its Harry Potter Fandom Club on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 14, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 28, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Feb. 11, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. There will be potion-making, house scarves, personalized wands, Diagon Alley business and dragons galore. Registration is required; email erin@derrypl.org.

• **Bargain holiday shopping:** The Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 225-8670, concordnh.gov) hosts a Holiday Half-Price Book Sale on Thursday, Dec. 10, during regular library hours (9 a.m. to 8 p.m.). The Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org) hosts a Friends Book Sale on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Paperbacks are 50 cents, hardbacks \$1, and tote bags, T-shirts and note paper will also be for sale.

• **Sailing know-how:** Author Debra Picchi visits the Dover Public Library (73 Locust St., Dover, 516-6050, library.dovernh.gov) on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., to talk about her new book, *A Woman's Guide to the Sailing Lifestyle*, which explores the technical and non-technical aspects of the lifestyle in an "easy-to-read handbook for the would-be sailor." In the book, Picchi recounts the tricks of the trade she picked up while learning to sail herself, from navigating and traveling in fog to the various sails and other parts of the sailboat. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author Events

• **KATE O'DONNELL** Milford native, author of *The Everyday Ayurveda Cookbook: A Seasonal Guide to Living Well*. Thurs., Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m. Wadleigh Memorial Library, 49 Nashua St., Milford. Call 249-0645, email krefdesk@wadleighlibrary.org.

• **C.J. DANIELS** Book signing for *The Coming, The Second Coming, Commando Incl: The DarkLight* and science fiction anthology *Lost Planets*. Sat., Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. Nesmith Library, 8

Fellows Road, Windham. Call 432-7154, visit nesmithlibrary.org.

• **ERIC STANWAY** Author signs *Strange Tales of Fitzwilliam*. Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Call 924-3543.

• **TOMIE DEPAOLA** Author book signing. Sun., Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. Der Markt at Marklin, 28 Riverside Drive, Contoocook. Call 746-5442.

• **DEBRA PICCHI** Author talks about new book, *A Woman's Guide to the Sailing Lifestyle*:

The Essentials and Fun of Sailing Off the New England Coast. Tues., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Dover Public Library, 73 Locust St., Dover. Call 516-6050, visit library.dover.nh.gov.

• **JONATHAN TASINI** Author talks about *The Essential Bernie Sanders and His Vision for America*. Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Main-Street BookEnds, 16 E. Main St., Warner. Visit mainstreetbookends.com. Call 456-2700.

• **HANNAH PAPP** talks about *The Mystical Backpacker: How to Discover Your Destiny in the Modern World* at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com, Fri., Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

• **JEFFREY DIAMOND** Author talks about *Live to Air* Fri., Jan. 15, at 5:30 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com.

Lectures & discussions

• **ANDREW SCRIMGEOUR** Presenter tells Christmas stories for teens and older. Fri., Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. MainStreet BookEnds, 16 E. Main St., Warner. Visit mainstreetbookends.com. Call 456-2700.

• **MODERN-DAY PERFORMANCE OF THE ODYSSEY** Storyteller Odds Bodkin puts together three-part performance in salon setting with Celtic harp and 12-string guitars. Sun., Jan. 10, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 17, at 4 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 24, at 4 p.m. Schoodacs, 1 E. Main St., Warner. \$50 for the series. Call 456-3400, email info@schoodacs.com.

Poetry events

• **SLAM FREE OR DIE** Includes a poetry open-mic session with featured poets and slams. Held every Thurs. Doors open and signups start at 7 p.m., open-mic begins around 8 p.m. Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. \$3 cover charge. Email SlamFreeorDie@gmail.com or call 858-3286.

• **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** Held at Robert Frost Farm from May through September. An open-mic follows the readings. Second Thurs. of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Robert Frost Farm, 122 Rockingham Road, Derry. Free. For info, email Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com. Visit robertfrostfarm.org.

Hipposcout

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THE TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOPS

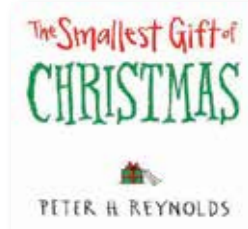
Happy Holidays!

Our book-loving staff are eager to help you find something wonderful for everyone on your list: Books - New, Discounted, **Autographed**, Calendars, Cards, Music and More! Still can't decide? A gift certificate will please anyone. And while you're here, indulge at our Bookside Café.

The Smallest Gift of Christmas

by Peter H. Reynolds

This heartwarming fable reminds us that some gifts cannot be defined by their physical size, but rather by the amount of room they take up in our hearts.



Certain Poor Shepherds

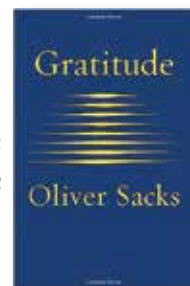
by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

The best-selling *local* author brings us a striking portrait of the Nativity story from the captivating point of view of the animal kingdom.

Gratitude

by Oliver Sacks

The four essays in this gem of a book form an ode to the uniqueness of each human being and to gratitude for the gift of life.



The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto

by Mitch Albom

Mitch creates his most unforgettable character-Frankie Presto, The greatest guitarist ever to walk the earth-in this magical novel about the power of talent to change our lives.



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Krampus (PG-13)

You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout or maniacal Christmas demons will eat your family as in *Krampus*, one of the better entries in the recent “dark Christmas” genre.

After a truly excellent slo-mo montage of Black Friday insanity, the movie starts with slo-mo footage of Max (Emjay Anthony), dressed in Christmas pageant regalia — I think as Joseph — wallowing another kid for, as we find out later, talking some smack about Santa. Max, despite being older-elementary/middle-school-aged, is still clinging to the idea of the True Meaning of Christmas and to his memories of his family happily coming together. Now, mom Sarah (Toni Collette) and dad Tom (Adam Scott) view Christmas more as a thing they have to get through, especially when it comes to the holiday houseguests that are Sarah’s sister Linda (Allison Tolman) and her family. Linda’s husband Howard (David Koechner) has a lot of thoughts — about guns, the general wussiness of Sarah’s family, etc. — that he seems incapable of not sharing. Linda’s four kids — Howie Jr. (Maverick Flack), twins Stevie (Lolo Owen) and Jordan (Queenie Samuel) and the baby — bully Max, annoy his big sister Beth (Stefania LaVie Owen) and are viewed as wild creatures by Sarah. This year, the suffering is amped up by the addition of Sarah and Linda’s abrasive Aunt Dorothy (Conchata Ferrell). Only Omi (Krista Stadler), Tom’s mostly German-speaking mother who lives with him and his family, remains calm. She is the only family member urging Max not to lose his Christmas spirit.

But after a dinner filled with the twins making fun of Max and the adults bick-



Krampus

ering with each other, Max can’t take it. He tells his family where to go, stomps upstairs to his room and, heartbroken, rips up his letter to Santa — which was actually full of good wishes for his family. This last act and Max’s hopelessness have the power of summoning not some helpful plump guy but a dark force. First, there is a massive snowstorm, one that shuts off the electricity and makes roads impassable. Though the family thinks it’s just another crummy part of the crummy holidays, Max senses something sinister from the outset, especially when he spots a creepy snowman nobody remembers making on the front lawn. Then, Beth tries to walk to her boyfriend’s house but doesn’t come home, even as skies darken. Tom and Howard go searching for her and by the time the family hears their gunshots everybody is pretty sure that there’s something worse than snow coming from above.

We actually get a look at the horned,

hooded, hooved Krampus pretty early on and he’s a good mix of grotesque and campy, a description that could be applied to most of the weird, evil things that attack the family. The movie even has a well-constructed animated interlude, as Omi explains the Krampus legend. And *Krampus* has a nice sense of humor without being winky. Initially, the movie’s focus is really on the family and how the holidays force us into these strange versions of ourselves. Sarah makes these elaborate meals and decorations, perhaps in part to passive-aggressively show up Linda’s family. At one point, Linda snarks that Sarah has made a bunch of weird food and Sarah spits back that she thought Linda might like a break from macaroni and hot dogs. Tom and Sarah actually aren’t as exhaustingly yuppie as they might seem, nor are Howard and Linda as yokel as their first impressions might suggest. But, the movie seems to

suggest, that’s what the holidays do to us, shove us into our one-dimensional roles and then pit us against each other.

That is until Santa’s evil half and his creepy broken-toy minions show up. Then, families put aside the nonsense and work together, rediscovering not just the true meaning of Christmas but what truly matters in life. And, as the demonic gingerbread men try to murder them, they really come to appreciate each other. Awww.

Krampus is in no way a movie for the kids but it definitely taps into the late-childhood/early-teendom disappointment on discovering that the holidays might not be as magical as they appeared when you were younger. It also mixes the “ugh, family” jokes with monster creep-outs (this also isn’t a slasher movie) and unexpectedly genuine-seeming emotion. Perhaps because all four people playing the adults are solid comic actors, they’re able to occasionally go to squishy feel-good places without tipping too much into cheese.

Krampus isn’t a gory horror movie that just happens to take place on Christmas, like 2006’s *Black Christmas*. It really does incorporate what War on War on Christmas types might consider “Christmas values” into its story and, with its yearning little boy at the center, even has moments where it reminded me of the Christmas movies of old — your *Home Alone*, your Charlie Brown Christmas special even. Just, you know, with murderous toys and completely inappropriate for children. **B-**

Rated PG-13 for sequences of horror violence/terror; language and some drug material. Directed by Michael Dougherty and written by Michael Dougherty, Todd Casey and Zach Shields, Krampus is an hour and 38 minutes long and distributed by Universal Pictures. 🍷

AT THE MULTIPLEX**Coming soon**

Dec. 11: *In the Heart of the Sea* (PG-13) 19th-century whaling!; *Legend* (R) Tom Hardy plays two 1960s British gangsters.

Reviewlets

* Indicates movies worth seeing.

Bridge of Spies* (PG-13) Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance. Steven Spielberg directs this traditional but solid Cold War legal and spy thriller. Hanks’ performance is good; Rylance’s performance is great. **A-

**Creed* (PG-13) Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone.

The Rocky franchise gets reinvented with the arrival of Adonis, son of Apollo Creed. The movie manages to hit a lot of the best bits of the Rocky saga and offers winning, realistic characters. **B+**

The Good Dinosaur (PG) Voices of Jeffrey Wright, Frances McDormand. Even Pixar doesn’t hit it out of the park every time, as evidenced by this lukewarm tale of a dinosaur and his human friend. It hits way too many familiar cartoon beats and does nothing new or interesting with them. **B-**

**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2* (PG-13)

Jennifer Lawrence, Philip Seymour Hoffman. Also, Julianne Moore, Donald Sutherland, Elizabeth Banks, Natalie Dormer and Stanley Tucci, plus Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth doing their duty in the least-essential, love triangle part of the story. No matter your actual interest in Panem and the world of this dystopian YA novel, the cast is too great to ignore. **B**

Love the Coopers (PG-13) Diane Keaton, John Goodman. A few funny bits and the occasional touching perfor-

mance do not make up for a lot of soggy family-at-Christmas cliches. **D+**

**The Martian* (PG-13)

Matt Damon, Jeff Daniels. An astronaut is stranded on Mars and has to science the heck out of the situation in order to survive the years until NASA can organize a rescue. Not just a fun movie that nicely blends humor and tension, *The Martian* is also an ode to science and how cool it can be. Perfect pro-STEM propaganda for your middle-schooler. **A**

**The Peanuts Movie* (G) Noah Schnapp, Hadley Belle Miller. The characters you know

and love get a surprisingly sweet update (visually; thematically they are the same) in this animated movie that has Charlie Brown attempting to win over the Little Red Haired Girl. **B+**

Spectre (PG-13)

Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz. Neither James Bond nor the actor playing him seem to be having fun in the 24th official outing of the character. The movie’s would-be saving grace — the Scooby Gang of M, Moneypenny, Bill Tanner and Q — comes too little, too late. **C**

Steve Jobs (R)

Michael Fassbender, Kate Winslet. A top-notch cast and stand-out behind-the-camera names (Danny Boyle directing, Aaron Sorkin writing) still don’t do much to enliven this so-so biopic of Apple’s co-founder. **C-**

Suffragette (PG-13)

Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter. This fictionalized story of one factory worker awakening to the women’s suffrage movement is nowhere near as interesting as all the true-life historical details that fill in the movie’s margins. **C**

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Tyngsborough, Mass.,
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644-4629, cinemagicmovies.com
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978-551-0055

MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

RED RIVER THEATRES

11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org
• **Unbranded** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:45 p.m.
• **Spotlight** (R, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 11, at 12:30, 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 12:30, 3:15, 6 & 8:45 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 12:30, 3:15 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 14, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 15, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.; & Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2, 5:25 & 8:05 p.m.

• **Brooklyn** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 11, at 1:10, 3:40, 6:25 & 8:55 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 1:10, 3:40, 6:25 & 8:55 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 1:10, 3:40 & 6:25 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 14, at 2:05 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 15, at 2:05 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2:05, 5:30 & 8 p.m.
• **Portraits of Professional Caregivers** (NR, 2015) Fri., Dec. 11, at 2, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 12, at 2, 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 & 6:15 p.m.; Mon., Dec. 14, at 2:10 & 6 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 15, at 2:10 & 6:15 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:15 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 17, at 2:10, 5:35 & 7:15 p.m.

• **Dark of the Sun** (NR, 1968) Sun., Dec. 13, at 4 p.m.
• **My Fair Lady** (G, 1964) Tues., Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL

40 Main St., Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• **Suffragette** (PG-13, 2015) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Meet the Patels** (PG, 2014) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m.
• **Sicario** (R, 2015) Fri., Dec. 11, through Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **Room** (R, 2015) Fri., Dec. 11, through Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screenings Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 & 4:30 p.m.
• **The Bells of St. Mary's** (1945) Sat., Dec. 12, at 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
• **The Magic Flute** (Met Live in HD) Sun., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
• **Blizzard** (G, 2003) Fri., Dec. 11, at 3 p.m.
• **Insurgent** (PG-13, 2015) Wed., Dec. 16, at 1 p.m.
• **Elf** (PG, 2003) Fri., Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.
• **White Christmas** (NR, 1954) Wed., Dec. 23, at 1 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-2300, bedfordnhlibrary.org
• **Bedford Parks and Recreation Adult & Senior Movie Matinee** Sun., Dec. 20, at 2 p.m.
• **School holiday movie for kids** Tues., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.

DERRY OPERA HOUSE

29 W. Broadway, Derry, derryoperahouse.com
• **Polar Express** (G, 2004) Sat., Dec. 19, at noon

CHUNKY'S CINEMA

151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055, chunkys.com
• **Elf** (PG, 2003) Thurs., Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.
• **Polar Express** (G, 2004) Sat., Dec. 12, at 9 a.m., 12:30, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.
• **It's a Wonderful Life** (PG, 1946) Wed., Dec. 16, at noon
• **Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer** (1964) & **Frosty the Snowman** (1969) Wed., Dec. 16, at 11:30, noon and 12:30 p.m.
• **The Good Dinosaur** (PG, 2015) Wed., Dec. 16, at 4 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org. Call 589-4646 for a movie schedule.
• **Strange Magic** (PG, 2015) Sat., Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.
• **He Named Me Malala** (PG-13, 2015) Tues., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.
• **Rise of the Guardians** (PG, 2012) Sat., Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.
• **Pan** (PG, 2015) Tues., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

• **Wreck-It-Ralph** (PG, 2012) Sat., Dec. 26, at 2 p.m.

AVIATION MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org
• **The McConnell Story** Sat., Jan. 9, at 11 a.m.

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rogerslibrary.org. 886-6030
• **Cinema Celebration** second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org
• **Movie Matinee** Tues., Dec. 29, at 2 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL


28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org. Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth
• **A Ballerina's Tale** (documentary, 2015) Fri., Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.; Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.
• **Heart of a Dog** (documentary, 2015) Fri., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 27, at 7 p.m.; Tues., Dec. 29, at 7 p.m.; Wed., Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.
• **Citizen Kane** (1941) Tues., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.

THE FLYING MONKEY

39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
• **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) Sat., Dec. 19, at 4 p.m.

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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Pour 24:** Holiday themed-contests and live music happen around the clock at **Pub Mania**, a 24-hour charity event for the Children's Auction that raised over \$250,000 last year. Among the barstool challenge performers are Eric Grant Band, Mike Bourgeois, Red Hat Band, Justin Jaymes and Jodie Cunningham Band. "Pajama Hours" from 3 to 5 a.m. include karaoke and lip sync. The event starts Thursday, Dec. 10, at 9 a.m. at Patrick's Pub, 18 Weirs Road, Gilford, patrickspub.com.

• **Indoor fest:** Multiple bands, including the Gabe Straight/Amanda McCarthy duo **Ocean Astronaut**, play a benefit concert for Autism Awareness. Jazzy singer-songwriter Rachel Alix performs with her band at the event, which also features Cruel Miracle, Diamond Edge, PowerKeg, Bridget Fontenot and another act to be named, Friday, Dec. 11, at 9 p.m., at Racks Bar and Grill, 20 Plaistow Road, Plaistow. Get event information at on.fb.me/1HQ1Psz.

• **Seasonal swing:** Conductor Keith Lockhart celebrates two decades as **Boston Pops** conductor at this year's Holiday Concert, the 14th time the beloved tradition has stopped in Manchester. The arena floor is laid out with tables, chairs and white linen for an all-ages show including Christmas favorites, a holiday sing-along, and the occasional surprise guest. Saturday, Dec. 8, at noon at Verizon Wireless Arena, 555 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets are \$42-\$77 at ticketmaster.com.

• **Winter rock:** An alternative take on the season, **Wintersong** features Dan & Jonathan Blakeslee, Chelsea Paolini, Eric Ott, Wren Kitz & Lauren Costello, the Seth Gooby/Isis Alis duo Breakfastsong and Jon Nolan & Melvern Taylor. Each act performs three winter-themed songs "celebrating both the beauty and the darkness of the season," Sunday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Birdseye Lounge, 41 Vaughan Mall, Portsmouth, 373-0499. Tickets are \$8; a free pre-party happens at 6 p.m.

• **Anniversary:** A downtown nightclub celebrates a year of presenting original live music with **Pop Evil**, a Michigan-based hard rock band that's equal parts Pearl Jam and Motley Crüe. The celebration continues the following night with **Trapt**, a California band best-known for its 2002 single "Headstrong." Tuesday, Dec. 15, (\$27) and Wednesday, Dec. 16, (\$20) at Jewel Nightclub, 61 Canal St., Manchester (21+). Doors at 6 p.m. both night. Tickets available at jewelnh.com.

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NITE Be a music fan's Santa

An under-the-tree fantasy list

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Don't know what to get your favorite music fan this year? Here are some ideas, from albums to concert tickets.

Start with a collection of homegrown Christmas tunes. **Pickwick's Mercantile Holiday Album** features Jim Dozet, Taylor O'Donnell, Chris and Eric Klaxton, Matt Langley and many other faculty members of Portsmouth Music & Arts Center, which the CD benefits. Call 431-4278 for more information.

With the proper mood set, here are some gift ideas for the person in your life that drives around with the "70% of my brain is song lyrics" bumper sticker on their car.

A concert ticket is a twofer gift — both when it's opened and at the show — three times if you're invited along. The state's premiere amphitheater announced its first 2016 booking recently; seats for **Florida Georgia Line** at Bank of NH Pavilion at Meadowbrook on Friday, June 24, and Saturday, June 25, are \$30-\$85 at meadowbrook.net.

If "Money" is no object, make a Pink Floyd fanatic's dream come true with tickets to one of **David Gilmour's** three sold-out New York City shows — April 10, 11 and 12 — part of a much too brief North American tour also stopping in Toronto, Chicago and Los Angeles. Tickets on StubHub.com start at \$130 and end on the "Dark Side of the Moon."

For true fans, streaming and files can't replace a box set, and there are a few standouts this year. The deluxe Blu-ray version of **Beatles 1+** includes the Fab



Courtesy photo.

Four's 27 chart-topping singles along with restored videos of each song — and a bevy of extras. **Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck: The Home Recordings** has Brett Morgan's brilliant documentary, a 31-track soundtrack, a hard-bound book and a jigsaw puzzle among its goodies.

The Cutting Edge 1965 - 1966: The Bootleg Series Vol. 12 (6 CD Deluxe Edition) goes inside Bob Dylan's creation process during three groundbreaking 1965-1966 albums.

It's ideal for the fanatic who's dying to hear 16 different takes of "Like a Rolling Stone." The big baubles in Bruce Springsteen's **The Ties That Bind: The**

River Collection are a coffee table book and a 1980 concert film and documentary on two Blu-ray discs; oh, and 52 tracks on three CDs, most of them rarities.

Or you can ditch the classic rockers and go local. Mindset X released the long-awaited **Oceans** this year; it's a prog-rock-er's delight (amazon.com). Make a country fan's Christmas with Shana Stack Band's **Then & Now**, the lat-

est from the 2015 New England Music Awards Band of the Year (shanastackband.com).

Newcomer Anna Madsen's five-song EP **Palm Reader** is hauntingly beautiful (facebook.com/annamadsenmusic). Ubiquitous Americana performer Paul Hubert's **All Connected** is a tasty treat (paulhubertmusic.com), and **Return to the Castle** from fiddler Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki's trio latest will delight Celtic music fans.

A T-shirt or other swag really connects band and fan. Rising stars **Hunter** offer a line of nautical and patriotic themed gear (facebook.com/hunterbandofficial). A **Pat & the Hats** shirt sports a monkey staring longingly at a banana in space (patandthehats.com).

Many fine music biographies came out in 2015. The best of the bunch is Concord native and ex-Del Fuego Warren Zanes' **Petty: The Biography**, one musician writing with brilliant insight about

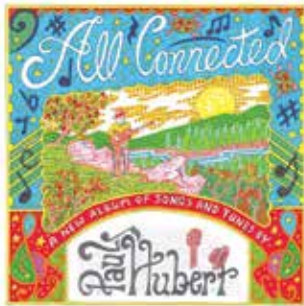


Courtesy photo.

another. Neil Young has released his first autobiography with *Special Deluxe: A Memoir of Life & Cars*, which contains some Young artwork and a few environmental lessons.

The Emperor of Sound: A Memoir is Timbaland's modest account of a life and career that's spawned "more top-ten hits than Elvis or The Beatles." Speaking of The King, few in music history were as influential as the man who founded Sun Records and discovered Presley.

Sam Phillips: The Man Who Invented Rock 'n' Roll is the latest from master music biographer Peter Guralnick. All



Consider a concert video like *Queen – A Night at the Odeon*, taken from the 1975 tour where "Bohemian Rhapsody" was performed for the first time, or *Roxy the Movie*, highlighting a legendary three-night 1973 run by Frank Zappa & the Mothers that's sat in the vaults for decades. More recent is *Rage Against the Machine Live at Finsbury Park*, recounting a free concert done for British fans that made the band's "Killing In The Name" the Christmas No. 1 in the U.K. singles charts – a big honor across the pond (amazon.com) 🍷



SOLSTICE SOIREE

Old Sol Productions, a new Manchester-based music production/promotion company and the winner of last month's NH Social Venture Innovation Challenge, is hosting a launch party on Monday, Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m. at Shaskeen Pub (909 Elm St., Manchester). The event will ring in the Winter Solstice with refreshments, a preview of plans for 2016, and music by Manchester's own Alli Beaudry. Bring non-perishable food items to support the NH Food Bank. Admission is free (21+), but space is limited. Please RSVP at oldsol.org/launch-party.

Night Life
Music, Comedy & Parties
• HOLIDAY KICKOFF CONCERT at Lane Library (2 Academy Ave., Hampton 926-3368) on Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. Jazz up your Holidays & lose your Humbug Blues with award winning musicians TJ Wheeler & Ayan Imai-Hall.
• CHERISH THE LADIES - AN IRISH CHRISTMAS at Dana Center (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester 641-7700) on Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. \$33.75 Cheerfully smashing the gender barrier of male-dominated Irish music since 1985, with a winning and spectacular blend of virtuosic instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step dancing.
• ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY at American Legion (15 Cottage St., Milford 673-9804) on Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Max Voltage performs - NH Rocks for a Cure will also be collecting items for their "Rockin' Holiday Fun Bags" to benefit breast cancer patients.
• HOLIDAY FOLK CONCERT at Concord Community Music School (23 Wall Street, Concord 228-1196) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. \$15(\$12/

students & seniors) Susie Burke and David Surette with Kent Allyn featuring a number of selections from their holiday CD release *Wonderland*, along with folk and acoustic fare from their standard repertoire.
• BLUEGRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Pilgrim United Church (197 Route 111A, Brentwood 778-3189) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15 - A one of a kind Christmas show that features traditional, contemporary, and original Christmas music performed with acoustic instruments and vocals. This upbeat and lively concert will provide a welcome relief from the holiday rush, providing simple moments to treasure and a chance to slow down and savor the season.
• BALLROOM DANCE NIGHT at Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket 659-4410) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Live music with the Don Altobello Band, doors open at 7:00pm, music and dancing - \$14/per person, full cash bar available, reservations suggested.
• MERRIMACK HOLIDAY POPS at Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St., Nashua 595-9156) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 7

p.m. \$15-\$45, under 15 free w/ adult - Under the baton of Jonathan McPhee and featuring New World Chorale under the direction of Holly Krafka, Symphony NH again brings you holiday favorites in a concert that has become a tradition for New Hampshire families with favorites like "Sleigh Ride," "Winter Wonderland" and "White Christmas" among the musical ornaments hung on the season's symphonic tree.
• JASON LESCALLEET AND AARON DILLOWAY at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth 766-3330) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. \$14 - Dilloway is a founding member of no-compromise noise predators Wolf Eyes; Lescalleet is a pre-eminent voice in contemporary electro-acoustic study.
• GRANITE STATESMEN at Nashua High School South (36 Riverside Dr., Nashua 886-SING) on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 & 7:30 p.m. \$3-\$18 - Barbershop Chorus presents 26th Annual Christmas Show featuring The Granite Statesmen, New England Voices in Harmony chorus and Nashua High School Musical Groups. The afternoon matinee will feature a visit from Santa Claus.

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Rocking back

Sarah Blacker rocks Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

A few years ago, someone dubbed Sarah Blacker “Sundress Rocker” and the nickname stuck. Playing solo acoustic guitar on songs like the ebullient and playful “Perfectly Imperfect,” she could bring a warm breeze to any cool day. But the folksinger harbored a secret desire — to plug in. With her new album, *In Waves*, Blacker turns to the latter half of that moniker and unleashes the rocker within.

“I get to play electric guitar on the whole record,” Blacker said excitedly in a recent interview. “That was the most fun, to just rock out and take an adventure to a territory that I have wanted to go.”

The results reflect her unique musical perspective.

“It’s tough for a singer-songwriter because if you write in a lot of styles you don’t really know where to put yourself,” Blacker said. “I’ve never really felt like I fit into the folk scene, but at the same time I’m not hip enough to be indie.”

One critic called the record “fearless,” and Blacker agreed with the assessment.

“Fearlessness is where I am at in my life as a person, too,” she said. “Obviously, we all have our own journey through finding ourselves and being a confident person. At this point, I just think I don’t care what people think about me. That’s not in a bad way; I just know who I am. I celebrate my freakishness.”

There are traces of Blacker’s past persona on the new disc. “Exhale” is a gently crafted paean to unexpected love with the brilliant couplet, “I told you where the line between my lips and my heart was strung/your eyes said you saw it but like your six-string you gave it a strum.” She rocks the ukulele on another tune called “It Shows.”

But there’s a moment on the instrumental “Interlude” that captures the essence of *In Waves*. It begins with electric guitar plucking that gives way to dreamy feedback. Blacker then commences to kick out the jams with authority on the fittingly titled “Breakout.” Other standouts include “Way Like Water,” which opens the disc, and the rollicking title track, a love song Blacker said was written for a specific person, “but it’s not for them anymore.”

The Web page for *In Waves* said it was

Sarah Blacker with Aaron Katz

When: Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

Where: True Brew Barista, Bicentennial Square, Concord

More: sarahblacker.com and truebrew-barista.com



Sarah Blacker. Courtesy photo.

“written in love, recorded in heartbreak,” but Blacker is in a better place these days. She’s spending a lot of time with Aaron Katz, a veteran of seminal Seacoast band Percy Hill and The Dejas. Katz will join her on drums and percussion for a show Friday, Dec. 11, at Concord’s True Brew Barista.

“We’ll be playing a fun lively set that I think will go over well for that room,” Blacker said.

Blacker has roots in the Concord area, but hasn’t played west of Portsmouth in five or six years.

“I did Penuche’s Ale House and a couple of others, but it’s been a long time,” she said.

The set features jazz-like improvisation.

“The way I play guitar and Aaron is a percussionist, we’ve both found a connection rhythmically,” she said. “It’s been fun to experiment with a lot of rhythms and just let the music become like a space for people to dance and then with my voice — which I have always considered to be my principal instrument — improvise melodies and kind of use it like a jazz trumpet.”

With Katz, she’s found a way to explore her free-form side.

“I used to consider *myself* a jam band,” she said with a laugh. “Now I’m working with somebody who was in a very successful one and we speak the same language. ... We can take the songs and let them breathe, just kind of pull them out of their form and see what happens.”

Turning up the volume is also a treat, however.

“I think I have always been a rock and roller at heart but because I play the acoustic guitar, things kind of came out on the quieter side,” Blacker said. “I do like to write a good ballad. But at the same time, I feel like I have rock and roll in my blood, so I’m moving more in that direction.”

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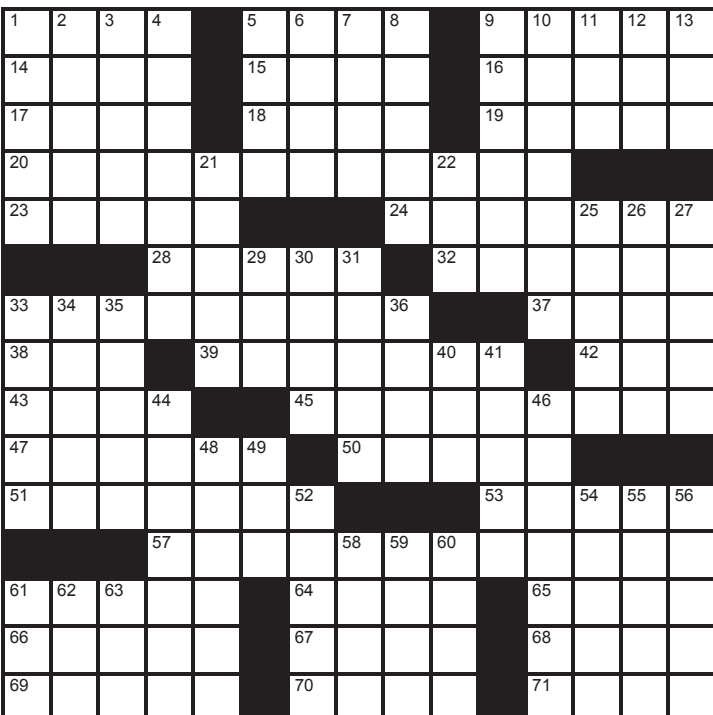


Bust a moof

Across

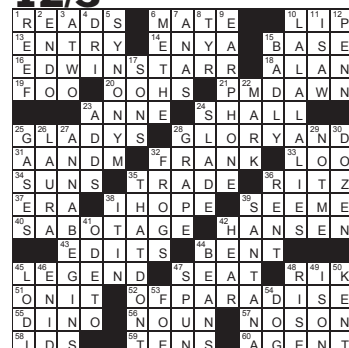
1. Young MC '___ A Move'
5. What Kris Kross will make you do
9. Screamin' Jay Hawkins '___ Spell On You' (1,3,1)
14. One chorus member

15. Bad English 'When ___ You Smile' (1,3)
16. Rise Against '___ Song Of The Counter Culture'
17. Kenton of jazz
18. Oasis 'D'You Know What I ___'



19. Negotiates musician movie roles
20. Robert Palmer smash 'Simply ___'
23. Otis Redding's pal Thomas
24. Musician playing alone
28. '98 Pearl Jam album 'Live ___ Legs' (2,3)
32. '94 Sponge debut 'Rotting ___'
33. UK label that provides safe havens?
37. Finger action from music listening
38. Rick Springfield album he recorded while on his path?
39. Tom Petty '___ To Be King' (3,4)
42. Beach Boys 'Til I ___'
43. Music is one of them
45. 'Mellow Gold' Beck song '___ (Snoozer)' (3,2,4)
47. '98 Aerosmith #1 'I Don't Want ___ A Thing' (2,4)
50. '02 Queens Of The Stone Age hit '___ Knows' (2,3)
51. Shinedown song about foes

12/3



53. Joe Diffie 'Tougher Than ___'
57. Velvet Underground & Eric Clapton songs w/same title (1,4,5,2)
61. Johnny Cash '___ The Line' (1,4)
64. Miami Sound Machine 'Falling In Love' song (hyph)
65. 'All The Things She Said' Russians
66. Track that gets harmonized
67. 'I'm gonna learn how to fly!' TV theme
68. Stage dive sound
69. Way in
70. Frothy Phish song?
71. Britney Spears exclamation

Down

1. Ciara '___ Instinct'
2. '07 Depeche Mode album
3. New Kids/New Edition producer Maurice
4. 'Funky Cold Medina' rapper (4,3)
5. 'Axis: Bold As Love' Hendrix
6. What a junkie rocker does
7. 'Bat Out Of Hell' Loaf
8. King Missile 'Detachable ___'
9. Pretenders 'Loving You ___ Know' (2,3,1)
10. Only fans in park at times, perhaps
11. Ultravox leader Midge
12. Pearl Jam 'Porch' album
13. Alien ___ Farm
21. The Academy Is...2nd '07 album
22. Dizzy's jazz, for short
25. Reggae phrase for oneness (1,3,1)

26. Living Colour's third
27. Old-school recording
29. 'King' Steve Martin sang about
30. 'I Wanna Be Somebody' Blackie Lawless band
31. Electric or pipe
33. Billy Joel 'New York ___ Of Mind'
34. French pop duo
35. "There's someone in my head but it's ___" (3,2)
36. Grammy-winning cellist ___ Ma (hyph)
40. Plastic ___ Band
41. 'Bella ___' Stevie Nicks
44. Melissa Etheridge '___ Features'
46. '03 Switchfoot hit '___ Live' (5,2)
48. Like addicted star's body
49. Honeydrippers '___ Of Love'
52. '09 Slipknot power ballad
54. BoDeans song about northwestern state
55. Buckcherry debut hit (3,2)
56. Hot male stars, slang
58. ___ & The Get Down Stay Down
59. Roach/Rich album about ritual drink?
60. Van Morrison's 'Here Comes The Night' band
61. Led Zep 'Since ___ Been Loving You'
62. Came in first in battle of the bands
63. Busted rockers put one on for the judge

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Rte 101 672-9898	Penuche's Ale House 6 Pleasant St. 228-9833 Pit Road Lounge 388 Loudon Road 226-0533 Red Blazer 72 Manchester St. 224-4101 Tandy's Top Shelf 1 Eagle Sq. 856-7614 True Brew Barista 3 Bicentennial Sq. 225-2776	East Hampstead Pasta Loft 220 E. Main St. 378-0092 Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St. 679-9559 Telly's 235 Calef Hwy 679-8225 Tortilla Flat 1-11 Brickyard Sq 734-2725 Popovers 11 Brickyard Sq 734-4724	Millie's Tavern 17 L St. 967-4777 North Beach Bar & Grille 931 Ocean Blvd. 967-4884 Old Salt 409 Lafayette Rd. 926-8322 Ron's Landing 379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122 Savory Square Bistro 32 Depot Sq 926-2202 Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd. 926-0324 Stacy Jane's 9 Ocean Blvd. 929-9005 The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928 Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Capri Pizza 76 Derry St 880-8676 JD Chaser's 2B Bumham Rd 886-0792 Nan King 222 Central St. 882-1911 SoHo 49 Lowell Rd 889-6889	Laconia Anthony's Pier 263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855 Baja Beach Club 89 Lake St. 524-0008 Broken Spoke Saloon 1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526 Faro Italian Grille 72 Endicott St. 527-8073 Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022 Holy Grail of the Lakes 12 Veterans Square 737-3000 Margate Resort 76 Lake St. 524-5210 Naswa Resort 1086 Weirs Blvd. 366-4341 Paradise Beach Club 322 Lakeside Ave. 366-2665 Patio Garden Lakeside Ave. Pitman's Freight Room 94 New Salem St. 527-0043 Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100 Weirs Beach Lobster Pound 72 Endicott St. 366-2255	Manchester A&E Cafe 1000 Elm St. 578-3338 Amoskeag Studio 250 Commercial St. 315-9320 Breezeway Pub 14 Pearl St. 621-9111 British Beer Company 1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677 Cactus Jack's 782 South Willow St. 627-8600 Central Ale House 23 Central St. 660-2241 City Sports Grille 216 Maple St. 625-9656 Club ManchVegas 50 Old Granite St. 222-1677 Crazy Camel Hookah and Cigar Lounge 245 Maple St. 518-5273 Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Rd 623-2880 Whiskey 20 20 Old Granite St. 641-2583 Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022 Ignite Bar & Grille 100 Hanover St. 494-6225 Imago Dei 123 Hanove St. Jewel 61 Canal St. 836-1152 Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar 1077 Elm St. 647-6653 KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS Midnight Rodeo (Yard) 1211 S. Mammoth Rd 623-3545 Milly's Tavern 500 Commercial St. 625-4444 Modern Gypsy 383 Chestnut st. Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535 N'awlins Grille 860 Elm St. 606-2488 Penuche's 96 Hanover St. 626-9830 Portland Pie Company 786 Elm St. 622-7437 Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020 Shaskeen 909 Elm St. 625-0246	Shorty's 1050 Bicentennial Drive 625-1730 South Side Tavern 1279 S Willow St. 935-9947 Strange Brew Tavern 88 Market St. 666-4292 Thrifty's Soundstage 1015 Candia Road 603-518-5413 Tin Roof Tavern 333 Valley St. 792-1110 Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722 Mason Marty's Driving Range 96 Old Turnpike Rd 878-1324 Meredith Giuseppe's Ristorante 312 DW Hwy 279-3313 Merrimack Homestead 641 DW Hwy 429-2022 Jade Dragon 515 DW Hwy 424-2280 Pacific Fusion 356 DW Hwy 424-6320 Tortilla Flat 594 Daniel Webster Hwy 262-1693 Milford Aden China 437 Nashua St. 672-2388 Chapanga's 168 Elm St. 249-5214 Clark's on the Corner 40 Nashua St. 769-3119 J's Tavern 63 Union Square 554-1433 Lefty's Lanes 244 Elm St. 554-8300 Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270 Shaka's Bar & Grill 11 Wilton Rd 554-1224 Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills 50 Emerson Rd 673-7123 Union Coffee Co. 42 South St. 554-8879 Valentino's 28 Jones Rd. 672-2333	Moultonborough Castle in the Clouds 455 Old Mountain Road 478-5900 Nashua 110 Grill 27 Trafalgar Sq. 943-7443 5 Dragons 29 Railroad Sq. 578-0702 Arena 53 High St. 881-9060 Boston Billiard Club 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630 Burton's Grill 310 Daniel Webster Highway 888-4880 Country Tavern 452 Amherst St. 889-5871 Dolly Shakers 38 East Hollis St. 577-1718 Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015 Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022 Haluwa Lounge Nashua Mall 883-6662 Killarney's Irish Pub 9 Northeastern Blvd. 888-1551 O'Shea's 449 Amherst St. 943-7089 Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535 Portland Pie Company 14 Railroad Sq 882-7437 Riverwalk 35 Railroad Sq 578-0200 Shorty's 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070 Stella Blu 70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557 Thirsty Turtle 8 Temple St. 402-4136 New Boston Molly's Tavern 35 Mont Vernon Rd 487-2011 Newbury Goosefeathers Pub Mt. Sunapee 763-3500 Salt Hill Pub 1407 Rt 103 763-2667 New Castle Wentworth By The Sea 588 Wentworth Rd 422-7322
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Thursday, Dec. 10 Bedford Copper Door: Rick Watson	Dover 7th Settlement: Reconstructed Trio Cara: Bluegrass w/ Steve Roy Fury's: Grivooga w/ Average Looking Girls Exeter Station 19: Thursday Night Live - Chad Verbeck Gilford Patrick's: Pub Mania Fundraiser Hampton Savory Square: Joel Cage	Hanover Canoe Club: Lydia Gray & Ed Eastridge Salt hill Pub: Irish Trad' Session Randy Miller/Roger Kahle Henniker Daniel's: Beechwood Lebanon Salt hill: Celtic Open Session Londonderry Coach Stop: Brad Bosse	Manchester Central Ale: Jonny Friday Blues City Sports Grille: DJ Dave Fratello's: Jazz Night Funktion: Joel Cage Karma: DJ Midas, SP1 & Reed on drums Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band Penuche's: Red Sky Mary Portland Pie: Acoustic Series Shaskeen: Gwell-O, Robot Clean Shorty's: MB Padfield Strange Brew: Johnny & the Two-timers	Whiskey's 20: DJs Shawn White/ Ryan Nichols/Mike Mazz Wild Rover: Allie Beaudry Merrimack Homestead: Steve Sibulkin Milford Aden China: DJ Brian Chapanga's: Joe McDonald Nashua Arena: College Night, DJ Hizzy Country Tavern: Ted Solovicos Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh	Portland Pie: Acoustic Series Riverwalk Cafe: Zeke Martin & The Oracle Shorty's Kieran McNally Newmarket Stone Church: Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki & Jim Prendergast Peterborough Harlow's: Bluegrass Night Plaistow Racks: Blues Jam, Steve Devine
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London
Flying Goose
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526-6899

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Paddy's
27 International Drive
430-9450

Newmarket
Riverworks
164 Main St. 659-6119
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 659-7700
Three Chimneys
17 Newmarket Rd.
868-7800

Newport
Salt Hill Pub
58 Main St. 863-7774

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Pittsfield
Molly's Tavern
332 Main St. 487-2011

Plaistow
Crow's Nest
181 Plaistow Road
974-1686
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Road
974-2406

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island
409 The Hill 427-2583

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Tim Theriault
Fat Belly's: DJ Flex
Portsmouth Book & Bar:
Jeremy Lyons
Red Door: Green Lion Crew
Ri Ra: Red Tail Hawk
Rudi's: Dimitri & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Dub Train

Rochester
Smokey's Tavern: Evan Brock

Weare
Stark House: Lisa Guyer Solo

Windham
Common Man: Tristan Omand

Friday, Dec. 11

Bedford
Shorty's: Sonic Boomers

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Russ

Concord
Makris: Brickyard Blues
Pit Road Lounge: DJ Music
Red Blazer: Frenchie
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
(105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Sarah Blacker

Derry
Drae: Joel Cage

Dover
Cara: Club Night w/ DJ
Shawunny O
Fury's: Freestones
Top of the Chop: Funkadelic
Fridays

Epping
Holy Grail: Dan Walker

Gilford
Patrick's: Brad Myrick

Hampton
Savory Square: Brien Sweet

Hanover
Canoe Club: Sensible Shoes

Hillsborough
Turismo: Songs With Molly

Laconia
Holy Grail: Unda Radar Duo

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Kieran McNally

Manchester
City Sports Grille: DJ Dave
Derryfield: Last Kid Picked

Raymond
Cork n' Keg
4 Essex Drive 244-1573

Rochester
Gary's
38 Milton Rd 335-4279
Governor's Inn
78 Wakefield St.
332-0107
Lilac City Grille
103 N. Main St. 332-3984
Revolution Tap Room
61 N Main St. 244-3022

Radloff's
38 N. Main St. 948-1073
Smokey's Tavern
11 Farmington 330-3100

Salem
Barking Bean
163 Main St. 458-2885
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Rd 328-9013
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S Broadway
870-0045
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing
890-1032

Seabrook
Castaways
209 Ocean Blvd
760-7500
Chop Shop
920 Lafayette Rd
760-7706

Somersworth
Hideout Grill at the
Oaks
100 Hide Away Place
692-6257

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 Lower Main St.
229-1859

Suncook
Olympus Pizza
42 Allenstown Rd.
485-5288

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
354 W Main St.
286-4524

Warner
Local
2 E Main St. 456-6066

Weare
Stark House Tavern
487 S Stark Hwy
529-7747

West Lebanon
Seven Barrel Brewery
5 Airport Rd 298-5566

Windham
Common Man
88 Range Rd 898-0088
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes,
Route 28 800-892-0568
Red's Tavern
22 Haverhill Dr.
437-7251

Fratello's: Paul Luff
ManchVegas: Walkin The Line
Murphy's: Jimmy's Down
N'awlins: Jared Steer Trio
Queen's Pub: J Street Extension
Shaskeen: The Stink
Strange Brew: Krewe de Groove
Tin Roof: Fridays With Frydae
Whiskey's 20: DJs Jason Spivak
& Sammy Smoove
Wild Rover: MB Padfield Duo

Merrimack
Homestead: Brad Bosse

Milford
Aden China: DJ Brian
Pasta Loft: HayWire

Nashua
Country Tavern: Kim Riley
Fratello's: Ted Solovicos
Haluwa: Party Train
Peddler's Daughter: Cassette
Riverwalk Cafe: Tall Heights
Stella Blu: Rampage Trio

Newmarket
Stone Church: Pigeons Playing
Ping Pong / Strange Machines

Plaistow
Racks: Autism Awareness
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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Portsmouth
Birdseye: Suitcase Junket
Demeters: Pete Peterson
Dolphin Striker: Groove Cats
Fat Belly's: DJ Cootz
Martingale Wharf: Tim Theriault & Jamie DeCato
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Elissa Margolin release party
Portsmouth Gaslight: Jimmy D./Dustin Ladale
Press Room: Dave Talmage (Early)/Ryan Parker's 'Swingin' for the Holidays' CD Release
Red Door: Datacet
Ri Ra: Without Paris
Rudi's: Yvonne Aubert & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Bearfight

Rochester
Radloff's: Dancing Madly Backwards Duo
Smokey's Tavern: Matt Gelinis

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Bad Magick

Somersworth
Old Rail Pizza: Ben Kilcollins

Saturday, Dec. 12
Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy

Bedford
Shorty's: Kieran McNally

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: New Prophets

Boscawen
Alan's: Joe Mack Solo

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Lazy Boy Rockers

Concord
Hermanos: Joel Cage
Penuche's: Amorphous
Pit Road Lounge: Dirty Looks
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz
True Brew: Charlie Keating Band

Derry
Drae: Alan Roux

Dover
Cara: Club Night w/ DJ Shawwny O
Dover Brickhouse: Punks for Tots with Whiskey Kill/The Guts/Genuine Rust/Jimmy Jacked/Diablogato
Fury's Publick House: Ellis Ashbrook

Epping
Holy Grail: Rob and Dan
Tortilla Flat: Chris Lester

Epsom
Hilltop: Ryan Williamson

Gilford
Patrick's: Whisky Geese

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Manchuka Semi-Formal Xmas Party

Hampton
Savory Square: Kim Riley

Hanover
Canoe Club: Kim Riley

Hooksett
Tap House Grille: George Belli & The Retroactivists

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Tim Gurshin

Manchester
City Sports: Casual Gravity
Derryfield: Last Laugh
Fratello's: Brad Bosse
Funktion: Kim Riley
ManchVegas: Without Paris
Midnight Rodeo: Dan Morgan Band
Murphy's: Connption Fits
N'awlins: Rob Wolfe Trio
Queen's Pub: Shameless
Salona: Point of Entry
Shaskeen: Joshua Tree - U2Tribute
Strange Brew: Tom Ballerini
Whiskey's 20: DJ Hizzy/Shawn White
Wild Rover: Sidecar

Merrimack
Homestead: Jeff Mrozek

Milford
Aden China: DJ Brian
Pasta Loft: Dance Hall Epidemic

Nashua
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Cramer Hill
Dolly Shakers: Riverside Blues Band Jam
Fody's: Street Legal
Fratello's: Rick Watson
Haluwa: Party Train
Peddler's Daughter: The Boneshakers
Riverwalk Cafe: The Double necks
Stella Blu: Groove Cats

Newmarket
Stone Church: Courtney Yasminch (early show) Alchemystics w/ Granite State 9p

Peterborough
Harlow's: Duncan Pelletier

Plaistow
Racks: Another Shot Acoustic Duo

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Joe Young - Cabin Fever Kickoff
Demeters: Wendy Nottonson
Dolphin Striker: Rhythmic Method
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Hilton Garden: Cormac McCarthy
Martingale Wharf: Don Campbell & Tom Yoder
Portsmouth Book & Bar: Ameranouche
Portsmouth Gaslight: Paul Luff/Justin Cohn
Press Room: Thunderbody/Stop Tito
Red Door: Paul Dailey
Ri Ra: Irish Session
Rudi's: Dimitri Trio
Thirsty Moose: The Timberfakes
White Heron: Steve Roy/Old Hat

Raymond
Cork n Keg: Brandon Lepere

Rochester
Smokey's Tavern: Tom Schena

Salem
Barking Bean: Dave LaCroix

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Bite the Bullet

Sunday, Dec. 13
Bedford
Copper Door: Ryan Williamson

Concord
Hermanos: State Street Combo

Dover
Cara: Irish Session w/ Carol Coronis & Ramona Connelly
Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Blues Jam

Hanover
Canoe Club: Never Too Late

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Friday, Dec. 11	Saturday, Dec. 12	Monday, Dec. 14	Wednesday, Dec. 16
Newmarket	Laconia	Concord	Manchester
Rockingham	Pitman's: Tony V, Jody Sloan	Penuche's: Punchlines	Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free Or Die
Ballroom: Joey Card, Rick D'elia, Mitch Stinson	Manchester	Tuesday, Dec. 15	Open Mic
	Headliners: Frank Santos	Derry	Shaskeen: Will Noonan, Nick Chambers (Toys for Tots)
		Hilltop Sports Pub: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko	

Open for Lunch Starting Dec. 15th
 Tuesday-Sunday at 11:30am



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1997 Dodge Ram 1500
VIN# 3B7HF13Y6VG720740
2005 Mercury Montego
VIN# 1MEFM42105G617830
2000 Saturn SL
VIN# 1G8ZH52871Z200493
2000 Honda Accord
VIN# JHMCG6697YC018487

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DECEMBER 11, 2015 @ 10 AM
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We reserve the right to refuse/cancel
any sale at any time for any reason.

2 PUBLIC AUCTIONS

1ST PRIORITY AUTO & TOWING, LLC
will be auctioning for non-payment,
impounded/abandoned vehicles per
NH Law RSA 262 Sec. 36-40.
TO BE LIQUIDATED:
1998 BMW 3, VIN # WBABF7321WEH41637
2001 Saturn SL, Vin 1G8ZH52871Z200493
1997 Honda Civic, Vin # 2HGEJ6579VH561376
2000 Honda Accord, Vin # JHMCG6697YC018487
1995 Toyota Camry, Vin # JT2SK12E4S0275139
2004 Nissan Quest, Vin # 5N1BV28U84N322919

~Vehicles will be sold at Public Auction~
DECEMBER 18, 2015 @ 10 AM
at 26 Mason St., Nashua NH.
We reserve the right to refuse/cancel
any sale at any time for any reason.



TUNESMITH

Supporting his elegant new release **Complicated Game**, **James McMurtry** performs on Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. at **Tupelo Music Hall** (2 Young Road, Londonderry). McMurtry's first collection in six years spotlights a craftsman in absolutely peak form as he turns from political toward personal. His vibrant vignettes have turned heads for a quarter century now. "James McMurtry is one of my very few favorite songwriters on Earth and these days he's working at the top of his game," says Americana all-star Jason Isbell. Tickets are \$25-\$40 at tupelohall.com.

Hillsborough

Mama McDonough's: Brad Bosse

Manchester

Central Ale House: Peter Fogerty/Phil Jacques/On2
Funktion: Alli Beaudry
Shaskeen: Rap night, Industry night
Strange Brew: One Big Soul - Sit Session

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Nashua

Burton's Grill: Aaron Chase
Riverwalk Cafe: Celtic/North American Music Session
Thirsty Turtle: Rob Benton

Newmarket

Stone Church: Grey Season

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Kate Redgate
Press Room: Jazz Series ft. Hot Tamale Brass Band
Red Door: Strange Strings Showcase w/Yung Abner
Rudi's: azz Brunch With Jim Dozet

Rochester

Lilac City Grille: Brunch Music at 9:30am
Radloff's: James McGarvey

Monday, Dec. 14

Concord

Hermanos: State Street Combo

Hanover

Canoe Club: Marko the Magician

Manchester

Central Ale House: Jonny Friday Duo
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe or Phil Jacques

Merrimack

Homestead: Amanda McCarthy

Nashua

Dolly Shakers: Monday's Muse w/ Lisa Guyer
Fratello's Italian Grille: Justin Cohn

Newmarket

Stone Church: Blues Jam w/ Wild Eagles Blues Band

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Old School
Press Room: Dry Martini
Red Door: Hush Hush Sweet Harlot w/Ben Cosgrove/George Woods
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Concord

Hermanos: Brad Myrick

Dover

Fury's Publick House: Tim Theriault
Sonny's: Soggy Po' Boys

Hanover

Canoe Club: John Stowell & Billy Rosen guitar celebration

Manchester

Fratello's: Amanda Cote
Jewel: 1 Year Anniversary Party w/ Pop Evil
Milly's: Manchuka
Shaskeen: Tom Deniston
Strange Brew: Peter Parcek
Whiskey's 20: Sammy Smoove & DJ Gera

Nashua

Fratello's Italian Grille: Jeff Mrozek

Newmarket

Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/ Dave Talmage

Peterborough

Harlow's: Celtic Music Night

Portsmouth

Dolphin Striker: Pete Peterson & Skip Tulley
Press Room: Jazz Jam w/ Larry Garland & Friends

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Concord

Hermanos: Kid Pinky

Dover

Fury's Publick House: Truffle Duo

Gilford

Patrick's: DJ Megan

Hanover

Canoe Club: Steve Ellis - Jazz Guitar

Manchester

Fratello's: Nate Comp
Jewel: 1 Year Anniversary Party Night #2 w/ Trapt
Tin Roof: DJ Vicious

Merrimack

Homestead: Justin Cohn
Tortilla Flat: Peter Higgins

Nashua

Country Tavern: Charlie Chronopolous Jam
Fratello's Italian Grille: Ted Solovicos

Portsmouth

Demeters: RC Thomas
Dolphin Striker: Jon Plaza
Press Room: Courtney Yasmineh
Red Door: Red On Red w/ Evaredy (Ladies Night) w/PB Kidd
Ri Ra: Erin's Guild
Rudi's: Sal Hughes Solo Piano

Rochester

Lilac City Grille: Tim Theriault - Ladies Night
Radloff's: Tony Santesse - Ladies Night

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to music@hippopress.com. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion at Meadowbrook 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, ledlycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whitcenter.com

• **Slamovian Circus Of Dreams** Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Robert Randolph And The Family Band** Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Phil Vassar** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Iron Butterfly** Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Ragpicker's Dream** Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m. Music Hall Loft
 • **Boston Pops Holiday Concert** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Verizon Wireless Arena
 • **The Security Project** Sunday,

Dec. 13, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Rusted Root** Sunday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Buzz Ball** Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Cap Center
 • **James McMurtry** Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Manhattan Transfer** Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m. Flying Monkey
 • **Eric Hutchinson** Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Rocking Horse Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Cap
 • **Kenny Rogers Christmas and Hits** Sunday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Cap Center
 • **Portsmouth Symphony Holiday Pops** Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Music Hall
 • **Juston McKinney's Last Laugh 2015** Saturday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m. Music Hall
 • **Stephen Kellogg** Tuesday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Adam Ezra Group** Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Manchuka Dinner/Dance** Saturday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m. Tupelo
 • **Beatejuice** Saturday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m. Tupelo

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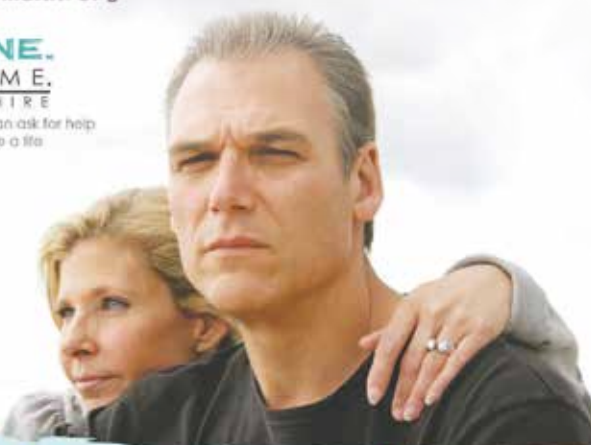
A new law in New Hampshire allows any family member or friend of someone at risk of an opioid overdose to be prescribed naloxone, a medication to use after calling 911 and starting rescue breathing to help prevent an overdose death. Ask your doctor today about naloxone for yourself or a loved one. You can also visit anyoneanytimenh.org to find a list of settings providing community access to naloxone kits.

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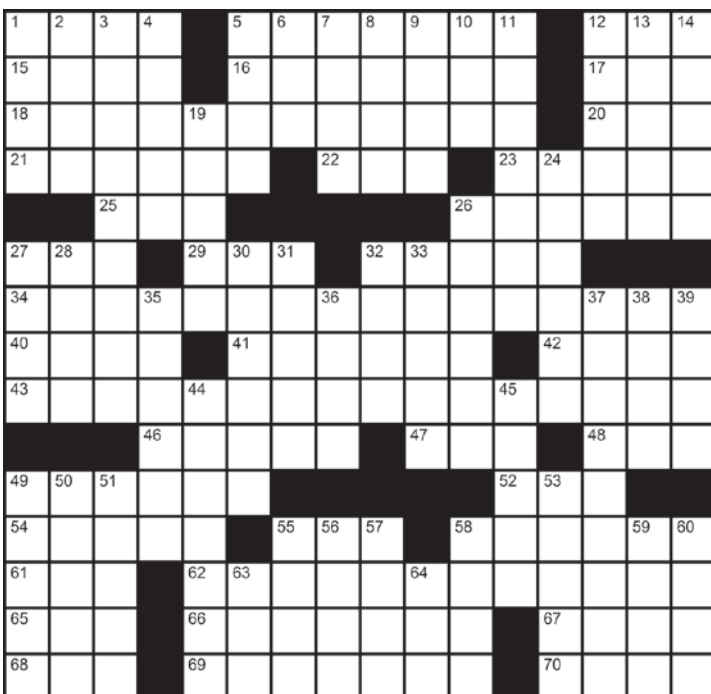
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"Flour Power" — bake it a good one

Across

- 1 Watch chains
5 "I Love a Rainy Night" country singer Eddie
12 ___ deferens
15 Farmer's measurement
16 Team with the football

- 17 "Bravo, bullfighter!"
18 Flour sorters that form patterns?
20 Pack member, for short?
21 This evening, in ads
22 "___ me, that's who!"
23 Go over some lines?
25 "Well, lah-di-___!"



- 26 "LOSER KEEPS ___" (billboard seen before the U.S.-Canada gold medal hockey game of 2014)
27 Particle in a charged state
29 I, in Munich
32 Borneo ape, for short
34 Motors that are better suited for flour mills?
40 Test giver's call
41 Dormant
42 Kunis of "Black Swan"
43 Giant bodies of flour and water that won't rise?
46 Marshmallow holiday candies
47 "I don't wanna know about your infection" initials
48 Elly May Clampett's pa
49 Check to make sure
52 Annual MTV bestowal

12/3



- 54 "Help!" actor Ringo
55 Turntablists, familiarly
58 Bout before the main event
61 Dye holder
62 The next batch of flour being from the same common grain as the last?
65 Cherry discard
66 "Wait, let me wash up first!"
67 Rain hard?
68 Like some winks and grins
69 Like some poker games
70 Naysayer's view

Down

- 1 Hard to catch
2 Cuatro plus cuatro
3 Staples or Hooters, e.g.
4 Antique photo tone
5 One of the "Golden Girls"
6 Movie buff's org.
7 Lifelong pals, less formally
8 ___ noire (bane)
9 Gospel singer Andrews
10 Co. that introduced Dungeons & Dragons
11 Mic check word
12 Some English homework, casually
13 Writer Munro
14 "Against the Wind" singer Bob
19 Principle of good conduct
24 Current government
26 Paperback publisher named for a

- small fowl
27 "It ___ laugh"
28 Psych suffix
30 Pursued
31 Approach for money
32 Pitcher Hersher
33 Stopwatch button
35 "(Don't Fear) The ___" (1976 Blue Oyster Cult hit)
36 White-tailed coastal birds
37 Stealthy-sounding (but subpar) subprime mortgage offering
38 "Waiting For the Robert ___"
39 Anti-DUI gp.
44 Top-five finish, perhaps, to an optimist
45 Joie de ___
49 Invitation replies
50 Net business, as seen in crosswords but not in real life
51 Ramshackle
53 "A.I." humanoid
55 Cope
56 Actress Gertz of "The Neighbors"
57 Cherry discard
58 "Ahem" relative
59 "Down ___" (Nine Inch Nails song)
60 1551, to ancient Romans
63 Insurance option that requires referrals
64 "___ said before ..."
©2015 Jonesin' Crosswords

All quotes are from *The Beat of My Own Drum*, by Sheila E., born Dec. 12, 1957.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Oh, no, I didn't want to be the first woman to step onto the lunar surface. I wanted to be the first little girl on the moon. Later, I switched ambitions and decided I'd win an Olympic gold medal for running track. As long as you have some sort of goal in mind.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Mom still sneaks food into movie theaters, by the way, even though the hot dogs for senior citizens are only a dollar. In her seventies she looks pregnant because her pockets are so stuffed with popcorn, candy, and soda. Economize where you can.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Surrounded by silence, I realized how much I missed noise. It's going to be a noisy week.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *I admitted to Marvin and my fellow musicians that it was me who'd mistakenly thought it was cool to accessorize an already perfect rhythm line with that extra beat. ... I ended up learning a very important lesson. Only play what is supposed to be played for the specific song you're supposed to be playing. Knowing when not to play is in some ways more important than actually playing. Word.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *A good drummer drives the bus instead of running up and down the aisle distracting all the passengers. If you want to be a good bus driver, learn how to play the drums.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *If I wanted my sticks to light up when I played them, I could have it. If I wanted two two-thousand-dollar outfits for every show, that was fine too. The response was always "Sure!" or "No problem! We'll get that sorted for you." ... I became mean, demanding, and angry. I stopped asking and started telling.*

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1			6		4		
6					9			
				3				9
		4		5			8	
8			4		7			1
	2			1		6		
9					5			
			8					6
		7		4			5	

Difficulty Level ★★

12/10

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are below

12/3

8	1	2	9	4	7	3	6	5
4	7	9	3	5	6	2	1	8
6	3	5	2	8	1	9	7	4
1	2	4	6	9	8	5	3	7
3	6	8	4	7	5	1	2	9
9	5	7	1	2	3	8	4	6
5	9	1	7	3	4	6	8	2
2	4	3	8	6	9	7	5	1
7	8	6	5	1	2	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

I began to see my team as a group of people working for me, rather than as individuals who worked with me. Do not let yourself fall into this trap.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Early on, I learned to feel the song out, find spaces, and splash some color here and there rather than throwing a jar of paint all over the place. Otherwise, you can clutter up the song. What you need is just a few splashes of color.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *The fun part comes when you go onstage to perform. That's when you play and it's easy and fun. But it's not easy and fun onstage if you haven't put in the hard work. It's time to put in the hard work.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Overall, I'd rather have a band member be kind, respectful, and prepared than be an amazing musician who comes onstage with a bunch of negative energy. The whole band will benefit from your positive energy.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *I've learned that it's okay to make a mistake. Sometimes a mistake can lead you to something far more exciting than perfection. You already know this, but you might need to remind yourself.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *I'm not saying you need to wear a tux or an evening gown in the sound booth. You can be comfortable, but do give consideration to your public appearance. It's part of the ritual that reinforces your respect for your work and your respect for those who are paying you for it. Maybe don't wear those ratty socks to work or on a date. Your wardrobe will make an impression on someone.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *In the years since we split, Prince and I reconnected and formed a stronger friendship than ever before. He's my musical soul mate. You and a soul mate will reconnect.*

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December 11th
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December 12th
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Wait, what?

After certain takeoffs and landings were delayed on Nov. 7 at Paris' Orly airport (several days before the terrorist attacks), a back trace on the problem forced the airport to disclose that its crucial "DECOR" computer system still runs on Windows 3.1 software (introduced in 1992). DECOR's function is to estimate the spacing between aircraft on fog-bound, visually impossible runways, and apparently it must shut down whenever the airport scrambles to find an available 3.1-qualified technician.

Cultural diversity

Sony manufactured a robot dog ("Aibo") from 1996 to 2006 for a legion of pet-fanciers, but now that supplies of spare parts and specialized repairers are dwindling, many of the beloved family "canines" are "dying" off. Not to worry, though, for many "surviving" owners are conducting elaborate, expensive and even religious burials with widely attended funerals for their Aibos. (A March 2015 Newsweek report offered a dazzling photographic array of Aibo funerals.) Aibo support groups proliferate online because, said one repair service director, "(W)e think that somehow, (Aibos) really have souls."

Leading economic indicators

• Art Basel, the annual weeklong festival for "One-Percenters" in Miami Beach, is scheduled for Dec. 1 to Dec. 6, and among the many excesses is the sale of on-demand caviar, available by text message, to be delivered in person within the hour, at \$275 for a 125-gram tin. Miami New Times calls Art Basel "ComicCon for the world's moneyed elite," and among the extravaganzas is an "exotic dance club sheltered inside a greenhouse." Four thousand artists, from 32 countries, are participating.

• New World Order: "Crowdsourcing" start-ups (such as GoFundMe and Kickstarter) raise money online for projects such as underappreciated entrepreneurial ventures or families needing help with medical expenses. Day-trading dabbler Joe Campbell went online in November to beg for assistance after being crushed by a bet of the type that many say wrecked the U.S. economy in 2007-08. He held a pessimistic "short" position in his account on KaloBios Pharmaceuticals (KBIO) hoping to exploit traders overly optimistic about the company. However, overnight NASDAQ trading awakened him with news that KBIO's price had skyrocketed in frenzied trading and that Campbell now owed his broker \$131,000 and Campbell's new GoFundMe post stoically asks strangers to please help him pay that off.

Government in action

• Charles Smith, 62, is set to drive municipal buses for Broward County, Florida, until he retires in 2020, even though his record includes 14 accidents in a recent five-year period (not enough for discipline, in that, according to contract rules, not more than four were labeled "preventable" in any two consecutive years). The bus drivers' union president told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel that he "can't figure out why" some drivers just get into more accidents than others. Elsewhere in transit news, notorious serial New York "joydriver" Darius McCollum, 50, commandeered yet another bus and was arrested on Nov. 11. He faces jail time, just as he has already served for more than two dozen bus- and train-"borrowing" incidents.

• The federal government confiscated more property from citizens (through "civil asset forfeiture") in 2014 than burglars did, according to FBI figures publicized by the independent Institute for Justice (and that did not count state and local government seizures, which are not uniformly reported). None of the governments is bound by law to await convictions before exercising seizure rights. (Some of the seized assets must eventually be returned to private-party victims, but news reports abound of suddenly enriched police departments and other agencies being "gifted" with brand-new cars and other assets acquired from suspects never convicted of crimes.)

More things to worry about

(1) Carrie Pernula, 38, was arrested in Champlin, Minnesota, in October after a perhaps too-aggressive strategy for quieting raucous neighbor kids. According to the

police report, Pernula, at wit's end, apparently, wrote the kids' parents by mail: "(Your) children look delicious. May I have a taste?" (2) Robinson Pinilla-Bolivar, 24, was arrested in Midland, Texas, in November, accused of threatening a woman at knifepoint because (according to the police report) she would not "smell his arm pit."

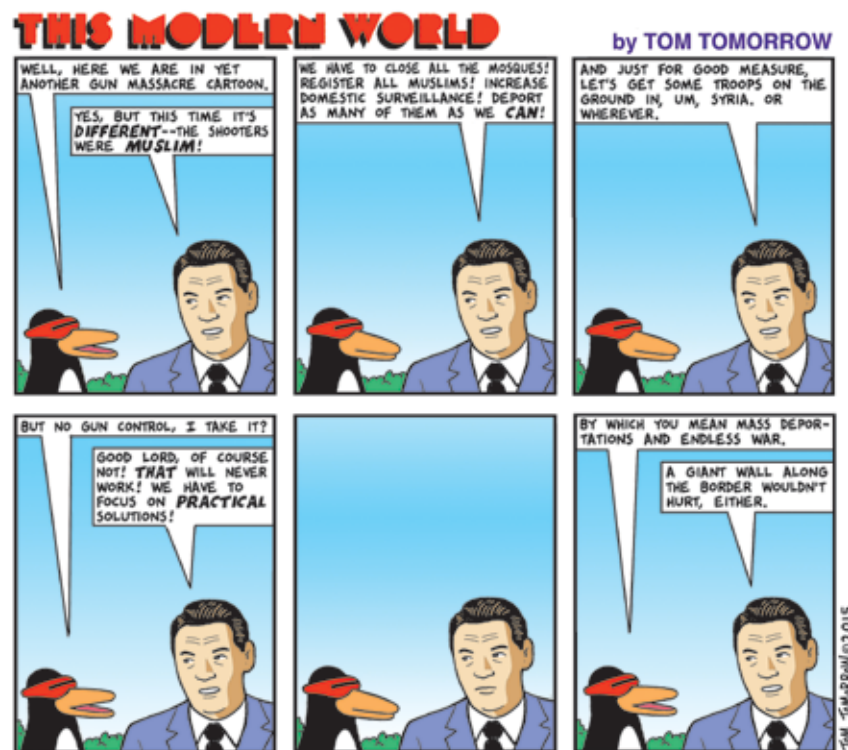
People with issues

Author Richard Brittain, 28 (and a former champion at the popular British Scrabble-like "Countdown" TV show), pleaded guilty in Scotland's Glasgow Sheriff Court in November for his 2014 response to an unfavorable literary review by an 18-year-old super-market worker posting on an Internet site. Brittain had acknowledged some criticisms of his book "The World Rose" in a blog, but said other critics had compared him to Dickens, Shakespeare and Rowling. However, he confessed, when he read the clerk's review, he searched for her online, found where she worked, traveled 500 miles to the store and knocked her out with a wine bottle to the back of the head. (She was treated and released at a hospital.)

Least competent criminals

A crew of masked home invaders struck an Orlando, Florida, family in October and were preparing a haul of about \$100,000 in cash and property when one of the perps got testy with the family's barking dog. "Back up, Princess," the masked man said, inadvertently revealing that he was on a first-name basis with the dog and therefore a family acquaintance. The victims, piecing together other clues, identified the man, who was soon arrested.

Visit weirduniverse.net.



SPARE TIME

Galactic NYE Party!
Thursday, Dec. 31st • 10pm-1am
 \$20/person or \$35/couple

Unlimited Bowling • Shoe Rental • The Best Music Light Show • Great Food & Drink • Hats, Noisemakers & Prize and much more!

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Thursday, Dec. 31st
 1:30pm-3:30pm \$44.95 (per lane)
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Sat.,
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 \$40-\$50
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Playing the music of Peter Gabriel
 Casey Desmond opens



Sun.,
 Dec. 13
 7:00 p.m.
 \$30-\$40
 RS-Theater

JAMES MCMURTRY



Fri.,
 Dec. 18
 8:00 p.m.
 \$25-\$40
 RS-Theater

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Frank Santorelli, Larry Miles
 and Scotty Lombardo



Sat.,
 Dec. 26
 8:00 p.m.
 \$18-\$23
 RS-Tables

STEPHEN KELLOGG

Emily Hearn opens



Tues.,
 Dec. 29
 8:00 p.m.
 \$25-\$35
 RS-Theater

ADAM EZRA GROUP NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

Doors open at 7:30 pm.



Thurs.,
 Dec. 31
 9:00 p.m.
 \$30
 GA

DINNER AND DANCING with MANCHUKA

Doors open at 5:30 pm



Sat.,
 Jan. 2
 7:00 p.m.
 \$35
 GA-Tables

NIGHT OF COMEDY

Jim Colliton, Dan Crohn, & Lois Dupuis



Fri.,
 Jan. 8
 8:00 p.m.
 \$18-\$23
 RS-Tables

JOSHUA DAVIS



Wed.,
 Jan. 20
 8:00 p.m.
 \$20
 GA

ANNA NALICK

Ryanhood Opens



Fri.,
 Jan. 22
 7:00 p.m.
 \$25-\$35
 RS-Theater

RYAN MONTBLEAU



Sat.,
 Jan. 23
 8:00 p.m.
 \$25
 GA

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